KING OF BANDITS

王ドロボウJING

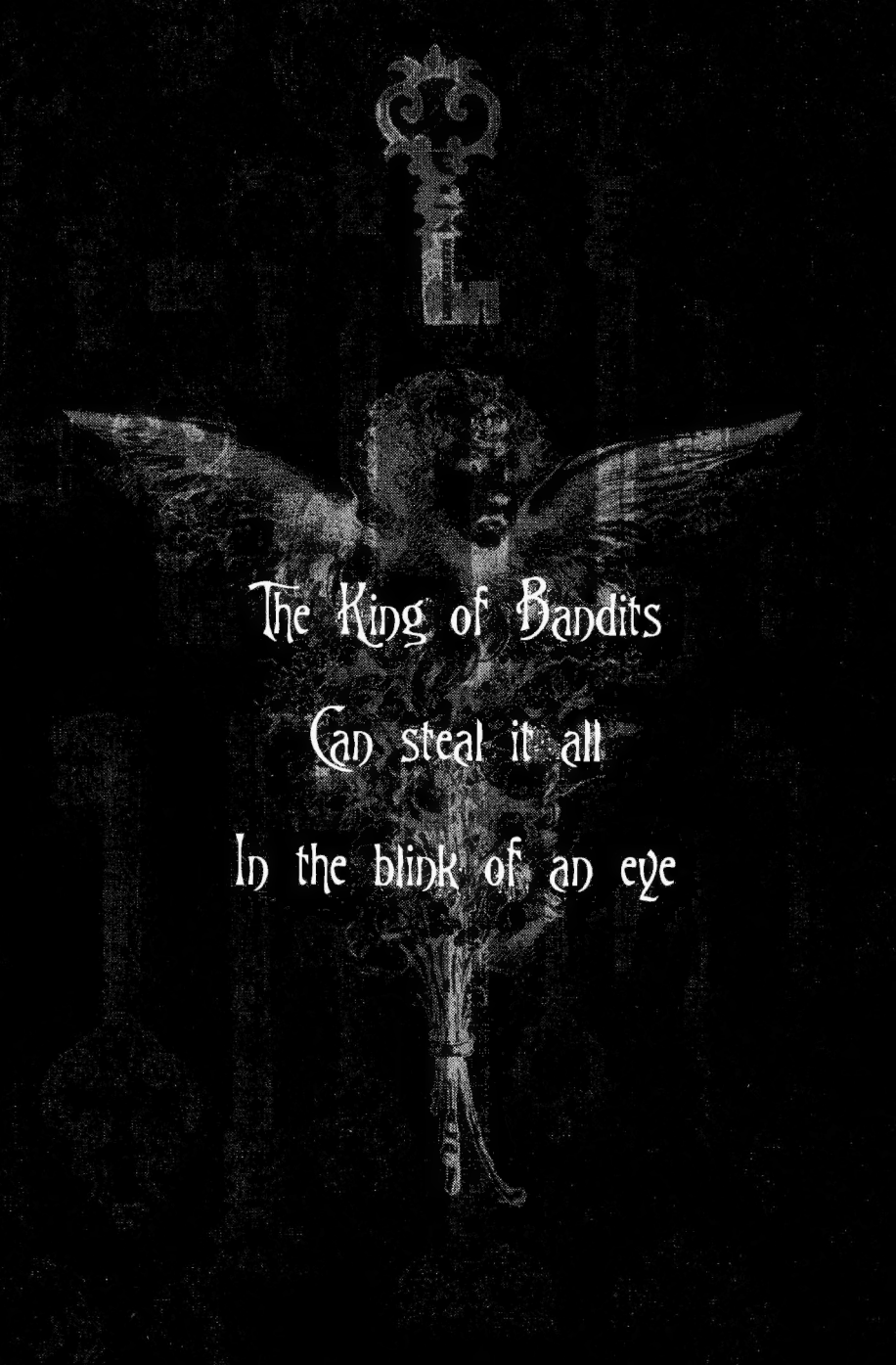
YUICHI KUMAKURA

All that glitters...

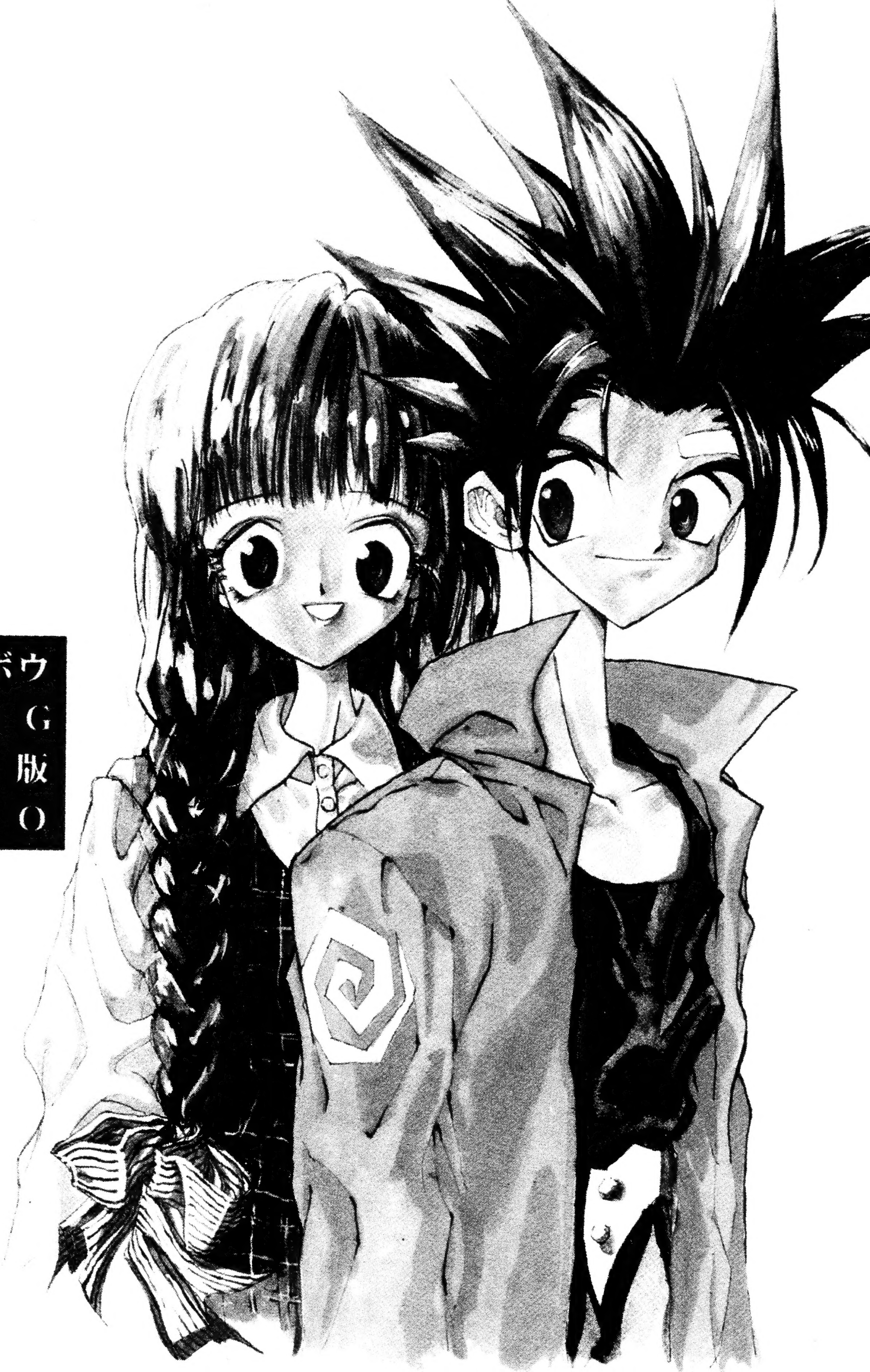
Even the stars

All things precious...

Even your life


The King of Bandits
Can steal it all
In the blink of an eye

王ドロボウ JING 新装版 TWO



Translator - Kong Chang
English Adaptation - Carol Fox
Copy Editors - Paul Morrissey and Bryce Coleman
Retouch and Lettering - Brian Bossin
Cover Layout - Gary Shum

Editor - Jake Forbes
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
Production Coordinator - Antonio DePietro
Production Manager - Jennifer Miller
Art Director - Matt Alford
Editorial Director - Jeremy Ross
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
President & C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher & C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

Email: editor@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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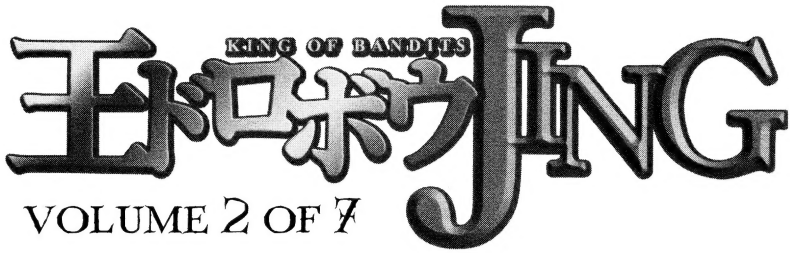

VOLUME 2 OF 7

STORY AND ART BY

YUICHI KUMAKURA

TOKYOPOP®

Los Angeles • Tokyo • London

The Story so Far...

Jing, greatest of thieves, is in hot pursuit of his latest prize -- the Clockwork Grape of Adonis. With his trusty "sidebird" Kir by his side, the troublesome twosome sneak past the temporally tempestuous city guards, but trouble is right on their heels. Adonis is a city ruled by the clock, where breaking schedule is a crime punishable by death. Jing and Kir stumble upon one such execution -- the lovely young Mirabelle is set to be beheaded in the town square. Kir upsets the execution and saves the girl, but the commotion attracts Mastergear, the sinister ruler of Adonis. When last we saw our heroes, they were locked in mortal combat with Mastergear and his foxy companion Sherry. Now, let us return to the heist.

JING: KING OF BANDITS
TWO
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5th Shot - The Flower of Neverland

HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON LYING THERE, BOY?

THEN IT'S SETTLED. BY MY MERCY, I SHALL GIVE YOU THE POWERFUL DEATH OF A MARTYR...

...FOLLOWED BY A MEANINGLESS, DEGENERATIVE SLUMBER!!

I SENSE IT...

TRUE, EVERY HUMAN HAS HIS OWN INTERNAL CLOCK... BUT FULL OF INACCURACIES. WHAT FRAIL CREATURES THEY CAN BE!

HIS HEART STILL IS THROBBING POWERFULLY, EVEN ON THE BRINK OF DEATH.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HEART

IS... IS THAT FOX FOCUSING ON...MY HEARTBEAT?

YES... GO FOR HIS HEART.

DID I KILL HIM?
NO... BUT I'LL BE ABLE TO PINPOINT HIS LOCATION BY HIS HEART.

HE HAS... TWO HEARTS?!!

EH?

SAND GLASS

WHAT?!

AH, I SEE. HE SEPARATED INTO TWO PARTS!!

NYA!

GAH!

KIR'S HEART

JINGS'S HEART

HOW COULD THAT URCHIN HAVE FOOLED SHERRY? HE MUST HAVE SYNCHRONIZED HIS HEARTBEAT WITH THAT ANNOYING AVIAN!

VERY WELL. WE'LL SEARCH HIM OUT!!

THE BRAT.

ゴゴゴ

!

GRAND FATHER'S CLOCK...

AHA!
A GIFT FOR ME!
NOT EXACTLY WRAPPED, BUT WE'LL PUT HIM IN A BOX SOON ENOUGH!

SCREE

SCREE

SCREE

SCREE

SCREE

DIE!!

JUMP DOWN!!

IN THE BACK. HURRY!!!

CHILDREN OF THE NEW CENTURY

BEHIND

TCH!!

BOOOOOOMMM

Violence is its forté

IF WE CAN JUST MAKE IT TO CAPTAIN'S PLACE...

CAPTAIN...

STAY ALIVE UNTIL THEN...

...PLEASE!!!!

:

PHEEEWWW
I HAD THIS NIGHTMARE
THAT I WAS BEING DEEP-FRIED
BY THAT CREEPY OLD MAN
AT THE HOT SPRINGS.
WITH POTATOES
MMM.

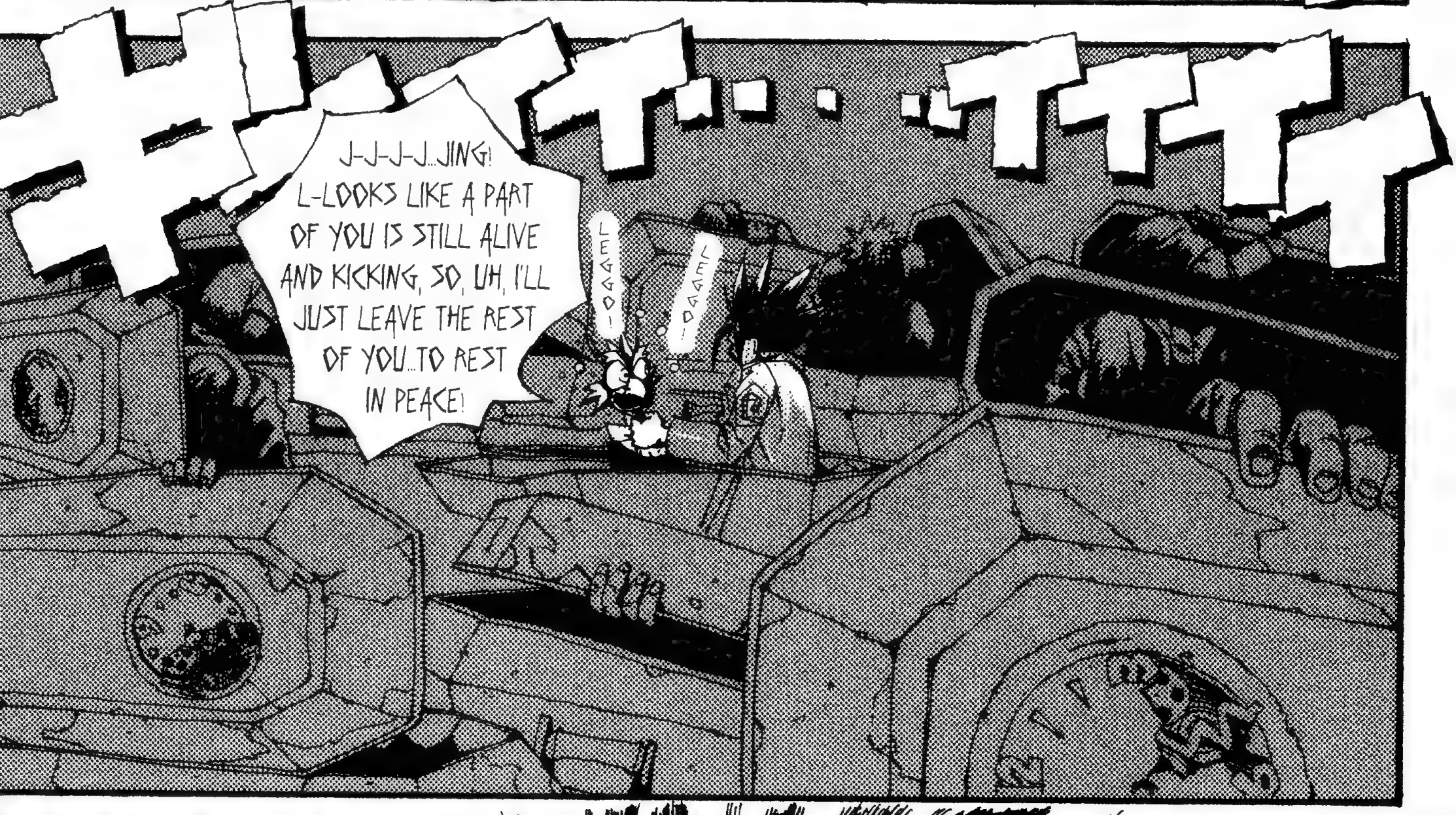
HEY, JING.
YOU THERE?

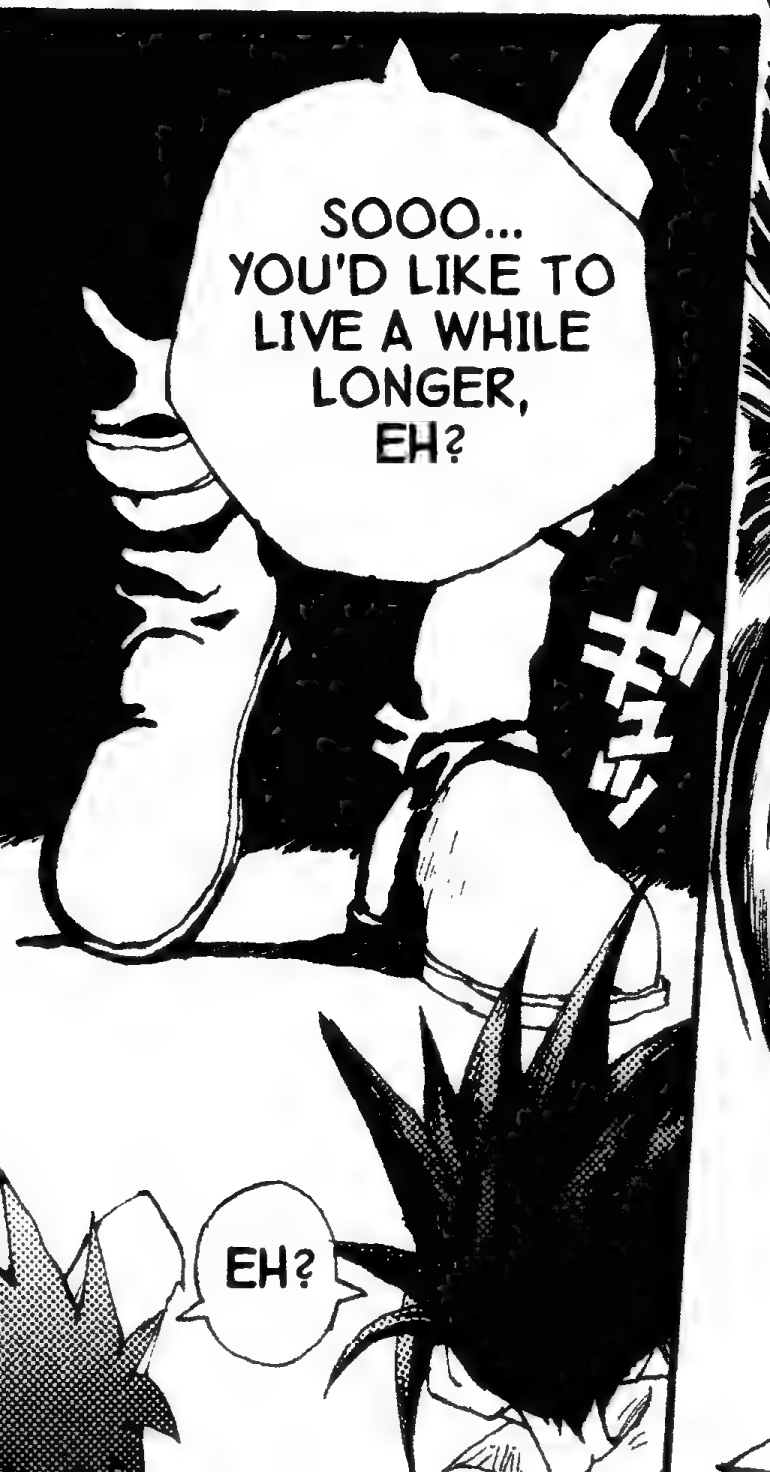
?!

JING...?

C'MON, PARTNER... OPEN YOUR EYES JUST ONE MORE TIME... FOR ME?

SO...SO I GUESS... THIS IS THE END. EH, JING?


J-J-J-J...JING!
L-LOOKS LIKE A PART OF YOU IS STILL ALIVE AND KICKING, SO, UH, I'LL JUST LEAVE THE REST OF YOU...TO REST IN PEACE!
LEGGO!
LEGGO!


SOOO... YOU'D LIKE TO LIVE A WHILE LONGER, EH?
EH?

TOO LATE, KIR. LOOKS LIKE WE'VE ALREADY REACHED THE GATES OF HELL. THEN AGAIN, I HAVEN'T KNOCKED.

EVERYTHING OKAY? COFFIN-BED COMFORTABLE?

WELCOME TO NEVERLAND.

WHO'RE YOU?

LIKE I WAS FLOATING STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN!

THE NAME'S CAPTAIN.

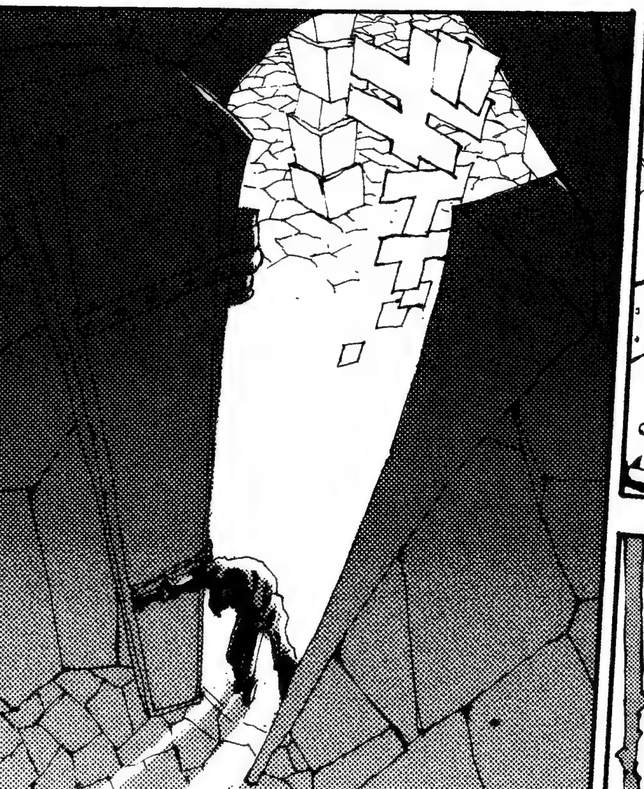
AND I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'M THE BOSS OF THIS HERE UNDER-GROUND CEMETARY.

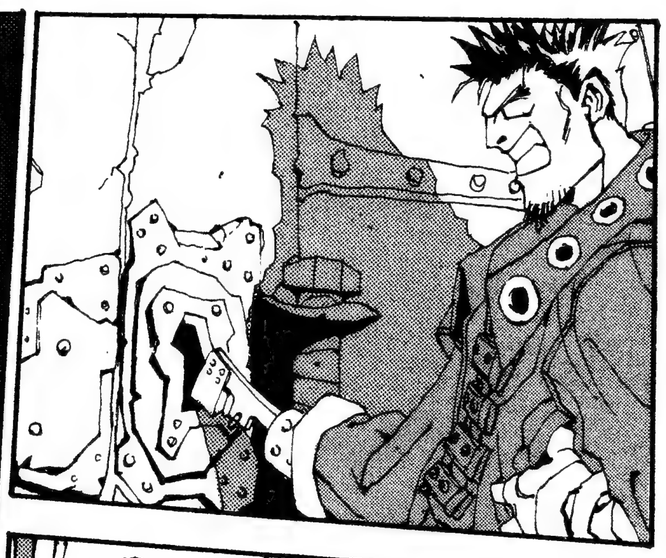
BUT WHAT'S A CAPTAIN LIKE YOU DOING IN A CEMETARY LIKE THIS? IT'S NOT EVEN ON A BOAT.

A DARE, MAYBE? WOULDN'T DO IT MYSELF, BUT I'VE BEEN TESTED ENOUGH TODAY

YOU SAID IT, BIRD! I'M LIKE YOU...EVADING THE JUDGEMENT OF ONE VINS MOUSSEUX. SOME STUPID TARDINESS CRIME.

US FELONS GOTTA STICK TOGETHER!



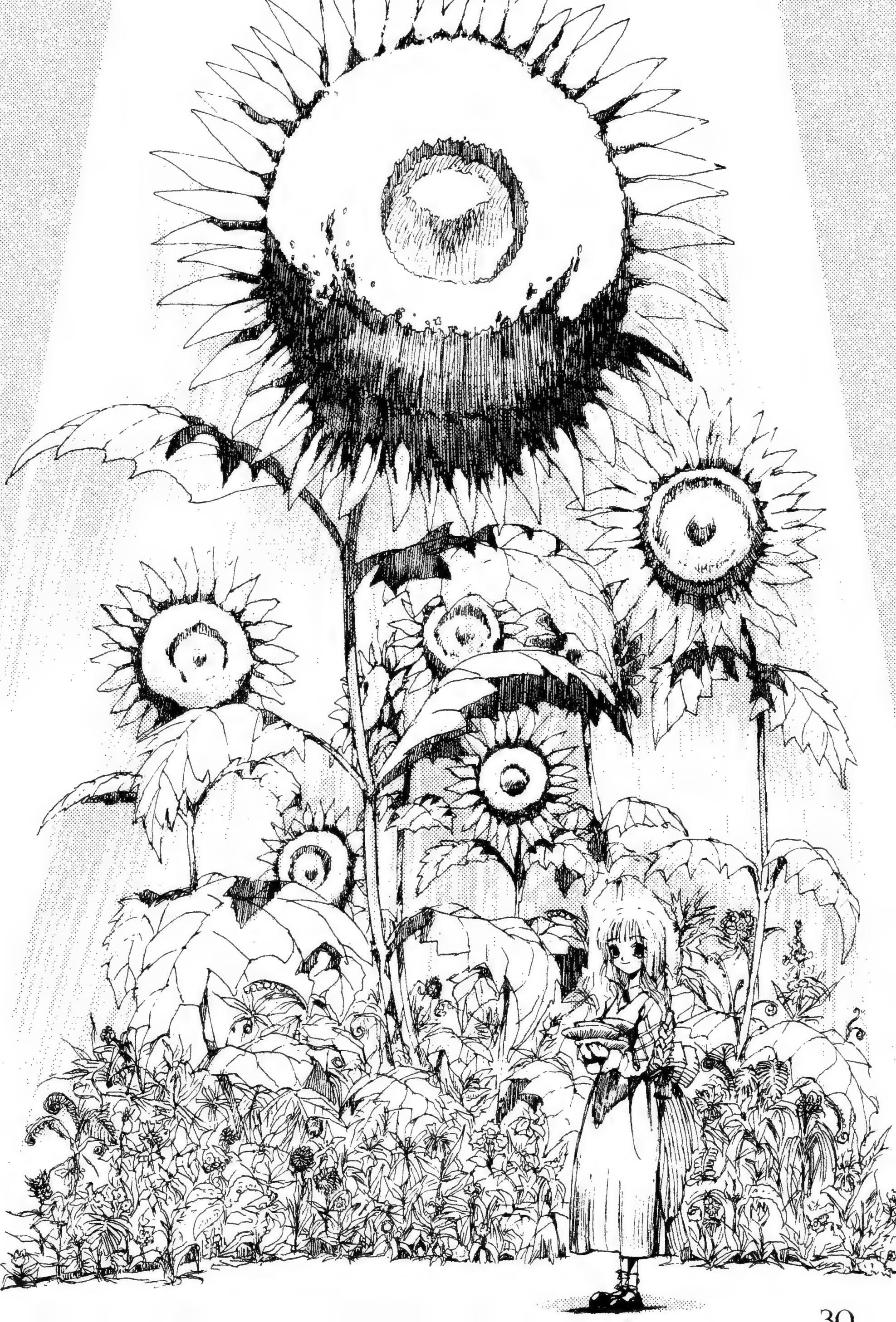


CLICK

WELL, NOW. FIRST THING YOU SHOULD KNOW IS I GET ANGRY WHEN I'M HUNGRY. CHOW TIME, FELLAS!

NIIICE... AND HERE I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA END UP A HALF-DRIED MUMMY.

IF YOU WANNA DIE, BIRDIE, WE GOT LOTS OF COFFINS!!
WA!!



GRUB!

A DELIGHTFUL DINNER.

FOOOOOD!!

!

THIS STUFF IS OUR MAIN HORS D'OEUVRE, IF YOU WILL.

HELPS US LIVE LONGER, SEE?

IT'S A PRETTY AMAZING HERB. THE FLOWERS EVEN BLOOM DOWN HERE, WHERE THE SUN SHINES ONLY TWO HOURS PER DIEM.

...BUT THEN VINS MOUSSEUX BUILT THE TOWER AND TOOK CONTROL OF ALL THE CLOCKS AND MASTERGEAR CAME.

LONG AGO, THE COUNTRYSIDE ALL AROUND ADONIS WAS COVERED IN THESE FLOWERS...

YEAH. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DIDN'T NOTICE A SINGLE WEED GROWING UP THERE.

IN AN INSTANT THEY WERE...

...LOOK MORE LIKE CORPSES THAN WE WHO LIVE IN THE CEMETERY!

NOW, THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE FLOWERS BLOOM. AND ALL THOSE GUYS ON THE SURFACE...

IT STILL LINGERS AROUND HERE...

...THE SCENT OF ADONIS, BACK WHEN IT WAS COVERED WITH FLOWERS...

...AND THE LIVELINESS OF THE PLAZA!!

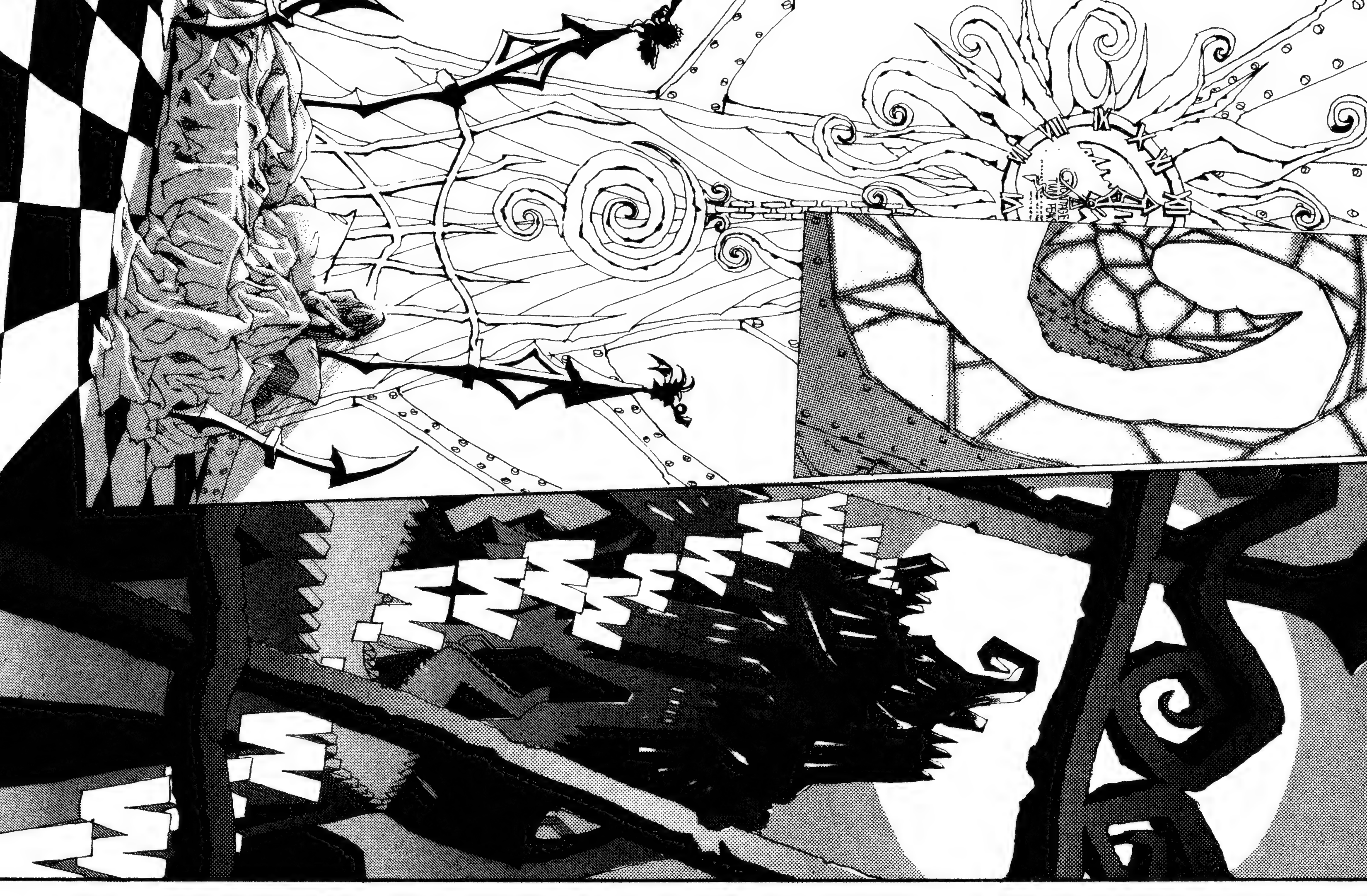
AS THE SAYING GOES, "A CEMETARY IS THE CHEAPEST OF INNS!"

WELL...

...MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

WWWW

WWWWWWWWW


MMMMMMMMMM

DON'T WORRY...

PRETTY SOON, THE MOON WILL RISE AS PLANNED...

...AND IT WILL SWEEP THE UNDERGROUND CLEAN FOR US.

DING DONG...

DING DONG...

DING DONG...

QUESTIONS IN A WORLD OF BLUE

BUSS

BLINK

TICK TACK

TICK TACK

GARA GABA

DODOM

TICK TACK..

TICK TACK

AAA
AAA
AAA
AAH
!!!!!!

TICK TACK

WH--

--WHAT THE--?!

OOF!

NAH... THE BIRD'S INNOCENT.

SHAMED

IT'S COMING FROM MIRABELLE'S ROOM!!

KIR, DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO HER?!!

AND SHE WAS SO PURE..

ダッ!!

ダダダダダダ

IT'S HIM.

THAT BASTARD!

TICK TACK

TICK TACK

TICK TACK

A BOMB? A DEMON? A BOMB-DEMON?!

HIM WHO?

IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA EAT MIRABELLE THIS TIME...!!

DA

IT'S CLOCKODILE...

...THE MONSTER WHO MADE A MEAL OUT OF MY RIGHT HAND!!

MELLOW OUT!

LEMME AT 'IM! LEMME AT 'IM!

P-PLEASE! STOP, CAPTAIN! CAPTAIN!!

STEP ASIDE, OLD MAN!

YEAH, YOU SHOULD STOP. OR YOUR OTHER HAND MIGHT BECOME HIS DESSERT.

H... HEY!!!

DA

DOSH
DOSH
DOSH

YOU'VE BEEN...GRANTED THE HONOR OF RECEIVING A SECOND EXECUTION... AS A WARNING TO OTHERS.

BON APPETIT!

B-BUT... SINCE YOU FACE DEATH ANYWAY... I PLAN TO START YOU OFF...BY SNAPPING OFF AND EATING YOUR ARMS AND LEGS...ONE BY ONE... WITH... MY... FINGERS...

SAY!

STOP

AH!

THIS GIRL HAD A PREVIOUS DINNER DATE... WITH ME!

WAIT.

I SEEEEEE. BUT IT SEEMS THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THE RENDEZVOUS...

IT WILL HAVE TO BE IN THE HEAVENS!!!

TOO FAR FROM HELL FOR MY TASTES!!

?!

BOINK

GRRR!

DOOOOOOOOOM.

THANKS FOR THAT, LAD. MY BELLY NEEDED A NICE SCRATCHING.

TAKE THIS!

DIP

EXCELLENT.

THH

STILL AT IT? I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D GET THE POINT BY NOW— UNLIKE ME.

NOW, WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER? TO DIE HERE IN OBSCURITY...OR TO BE THE GUEST OF HONOR IN MY STOMACH?

...

AIR ROYAL!!

DGGOO..

GYAA!!

ARRGGH! NOT THE BACK!!!

TSK

TSK

TSK

HOW'D YOU HIT ME... FROM THE BACK?

WHAT KIND OF BATTLE CRY IS THAT? A PRAYER FROM YOUR LITTLE VILLAGE BACK HOME..OOF.

!!!

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

THE SHOT S...WERE DEFLECTED BY... DAGGERS?

NO!!
THE PINK ROOM

ZUDOOO

AW SHE WAS MINE YOU'LL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS JING

BUT FIRST... A BRIEF MESSAGE FOR OUR NEW FRIEND.

?

?

MIRABELLE... WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME FOR A STROLL?

A...ST-STROLL?

MASTERGEAR - YOUR TIME IN IS ABOUT

ADONIS TO RUN OUT!

HO HO HO!

Sleeping children
Wake with the roosters
A little differently
In this Adonis

Up with the sun
They all hopped, hopped
But when the tears came
So did bedtime

Now soundly, so soundly
They will sleep
But all is not peaceful...
What could it be?

Slap their still faces
And you will soon see
How a child's warm bed
Can become a cold coffin

(From The Adonis Lullabye Collection --
Private Printing Edition)

6th Shot - How to Steal Time

DEAD CLOCKODILE

NOTICE OF DEATH!

STERGEAR -
YOUR TIME IN
IS ABOUT
ADO
TO RU

SUPAAAAR-N.U.!!

NOT ONLY ARE YOU INCAPABLE OF ARRESTING DOUBLE LATECOMERS, YOU ALLOWED YOURSELF TO BE CAUGHT OFF-GUARD, ALLOWING THIS HUMILIATING PIECE OF OFFAL TO GET AWAY!

TICK

VERY GOOD!

BE THANKFUL YOUR DEATHS WERE QUICK.

H-HE'S NOT GONNA RUN AWAY WITH OUR SLEEPING TIME, IS HE?

AHH... THE EGGNOGG TEAM. PERHAPS YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF ONE LITTLE RAPSCALLION FOR ME?

HEY... EVEN WHEN THIS CROWN IS AT RISK, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE!

zzz-
zzz-
zzz

FUWAAH

MASTERGEAR?

LET'S ROLL!!!

TAG

ELGIN

VROOOO

LISTEN, BOYO. PLAYING HERO MAY BE FINE AND DANDY ON YOUR OWN TIME...

...BUT DON'T DRAG **US** INTO IT!!!!!!!!

HOLY

RAISIN COOKIES

KIWI STRAWBERRY

STUN THE GAUL

THANKS TO YOU, VINS MOUSSEUX MAY HAVE SET FIRE TO THE ENTIRE UNDER-GROUND BY NOW!!!

STOP IT, CAPTAIN!! ARE YOU TRYING TO ADD TO OUR COFFINS?!

SEE THIS LID, MR. THIEF?

HE'S THE ONE GONNA ADD TO THEM!!

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WHEN THE TOWN OVER-FLOWS WITH THESE CLOCKS...THANKS TO YOUR HEROIC DEEDS?

CA-RAN!

CA-RAN...

THIS CLOCK MEANS THAT THIS PERSON'S TIME WAS INTERRUPTED... STOPPED...EXPIRED.

IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S DEAD!

THE ONLY THING EXPIRING AROUND HERE IS...

... MASTERGEAR'S TIME ON THIS EARTH.

EH?! WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO?!!

LISTEN TO YOURSELF, CAPTAIN...

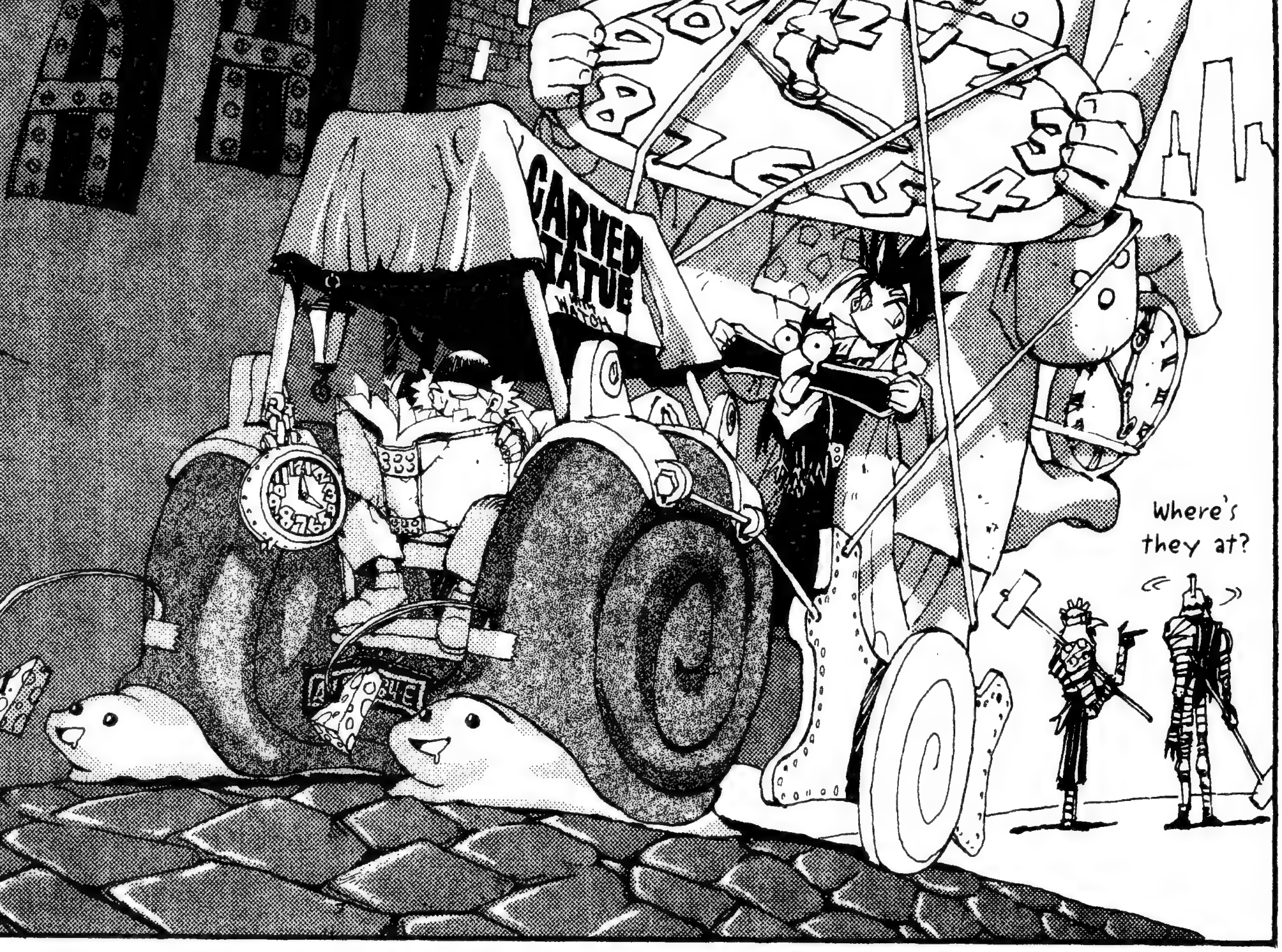
YOU SOUND JUST LIKE VINS MOUSSEUX.

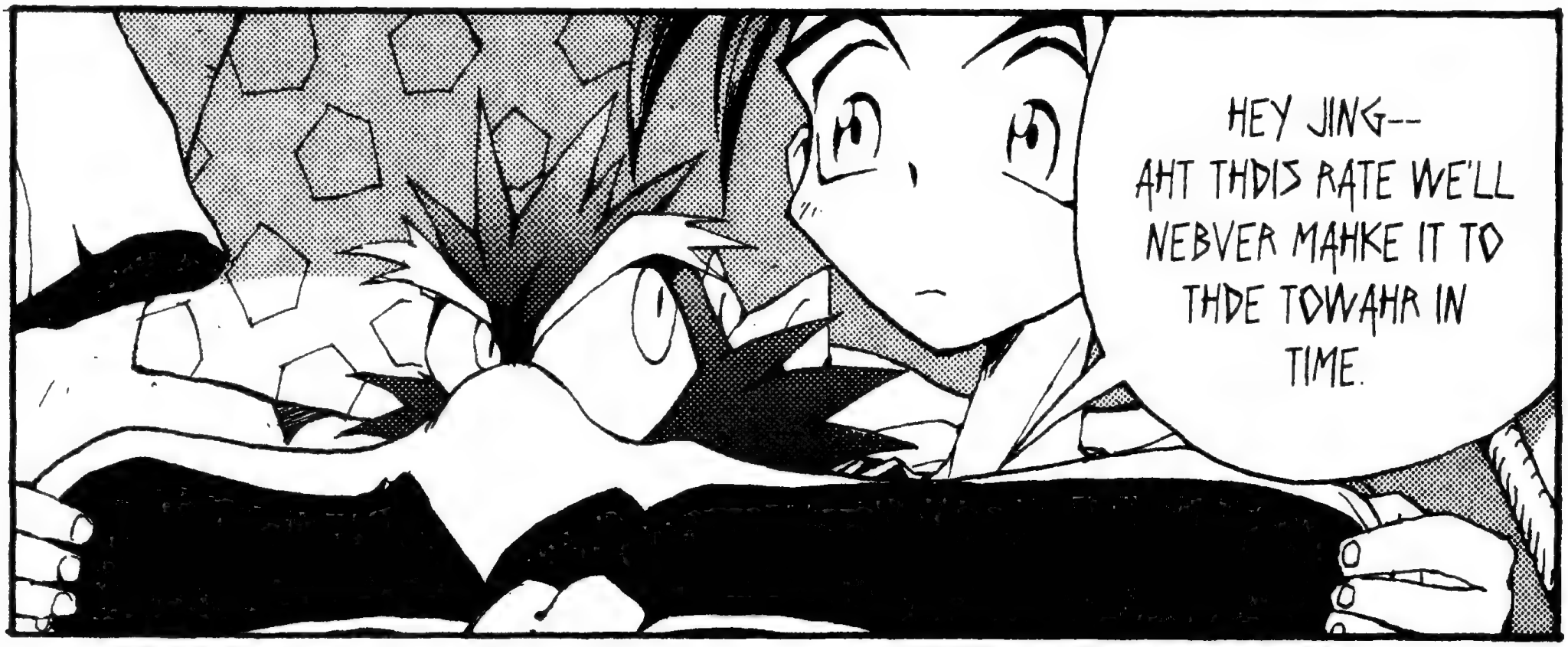
BESIDES...

AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO WANTED TO "SHATTER THE CLOCKS"?

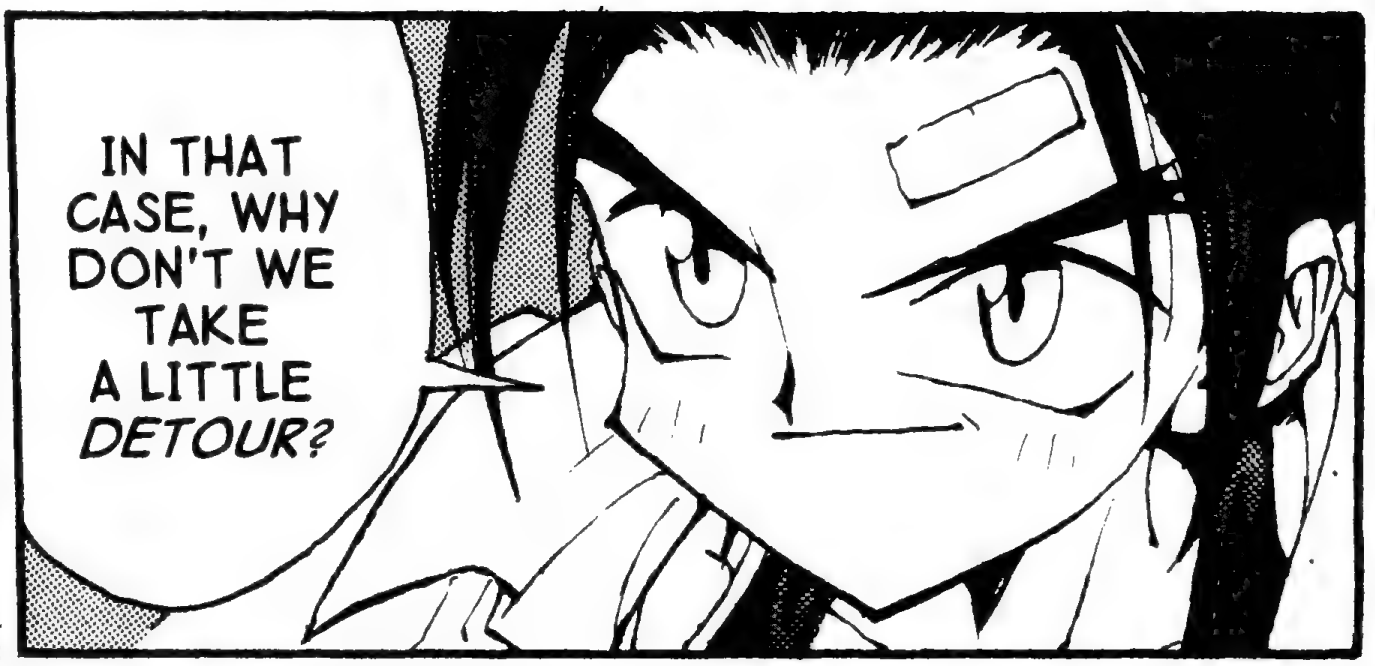
COMER

CARVED STATUE WITH WATCH


CARVED STATUE
Where's they at?


HEY JING--
AHT THDIS RATE WE'LL NEBVER MAHKE IT TO THDE TOWAHR IN TIME.

...EH?


IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T WE TAKE A LITTLE *DETOUR*?

WHAM!

BLAM!

CARVED STATUE WATCH

EGGNOG!

ゴオオオオオ...

COME IN !!

RITZ

FWP

HMM...
IIII SEE A CUTE
LEETLE TAAAIILLL...
♡

JING--WHERE'RE YOU GOING?! THE CLOCK TOWER'S THE OTHER WAY!

HA HA! SO YOU REALLY ARE GONNA STEAL TIME, HUH?

RIGHT NOW, THE CLOCK TOWER IS IMPREGNABLE FROM THE FRONT...I GOTTA STOP TIME BEFORE I GO IN.

PEEEEK-A-BOO... I SEEEE YOU!

WHOA!

GOTCHA, FLEDGLING!!

ALL THE MORE REASON TO BE INSIDE THE CLOCK TOWER...

PITCH WA HE

LET'S SEE... THIS TOWN IS BASICALLY THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CLOCK...

AND HOW, PRAY TELL, DO YOU PLAN TO DO THAT?

...SO IT NEEDS AN UNUSUALLY BIG POWER SOURCE. PROBABLY FROM OUTSIDE. TO STOP MASTERGEAR, WE NEED TO STOP THE POWER FIRST.

UNDER GROUND

MEETING IN PROGRESS - BOTTOM OF THE WELL

STEALING TIME, IS 'E?

MAGIC POWDER!!

MAGIC POWDER?

OR...NO... HE MAY BE A DEMON!

CAN YE BELIEVE THIS WHELP? TALKING LIKE HE'S SOME KIND OF GOD...

HOLL WOOD

WHAT KIND OF TALK IS THAT?! NO HERBS FOR YOU.

THAT HE MAY! HE'S ALREADY USED TO COFFINS...

YEAH, YEAH!

GET THE FU

AND AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, HE'S MY SAVIOR!!

THAT BOY IS NEITHER GOD NOR DEMON. HE JUST KNOWS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PROFIT WHEN HE SEES ONE. EVEN IF IT IS A LITTLE ILLEGAL.

...THAT FOR ALL THE TALK YOU BOYS DO, NOTHING GETS DONE. AND I SAID, NONE FOR YOU.

HE ONLY SEEMS INTERESTED IN PUTTING US IN DANGER!

YEAH, YEAH!

WELL, IT SEEMS TO ME...

BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH SHATTERIN' THE CLOCKS?

NO...I UNDERSTAND.

むにゃ

IF I WERE HIM, I'D WANT TO GIVE MASTERGEAR A GOOD SCARE...

AND I'D YELL DANGEROUS THINGS BEFORE THINKING, TOO.

I WOULDA BEEN KILLED BY THAT CLOCKODILE.

EXACTLY. BUT AS THE SAYING GOES, "EVEN WITHOUT CLOCKS, THE SUN WILL RISE."

...THE SUN WILL RISE... HMMM.

EVEN WITHOUT CLOCKS...

THAT LITTLE TWERP MAY TALK BIG ABOUT STEALING TIME...

...BUT WILL HE BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE PUNISHMENT OF THE EGGNOGG TEAM?

ゴゴゴ・・・

?

CULT TV SHOW

W-WHAT'S HAPPENED?!?!

MY LOYAL CITIZENS--?!

IT'S AS IF... THE ENTIRE TOWN...HAS DIED.

GAGA GAGU

ZZZ

SNORE

1 2 3

NONE OF MY CLOCKS ARE WORKING ...!!

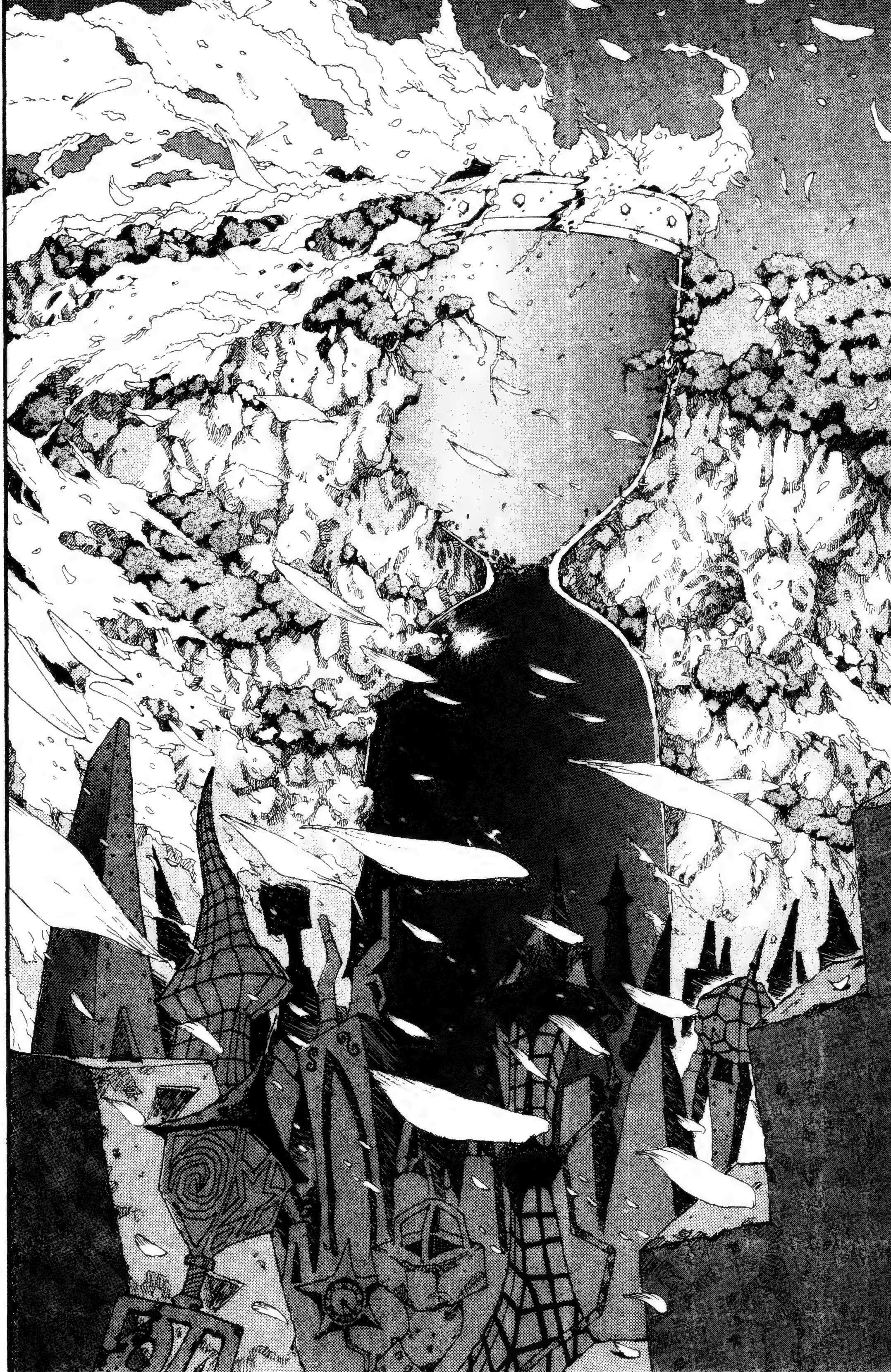
WELCOME TO TWIN PEAKS

THE CLOCK TOWER HAS STOPPED!!

WH--

WHAT IS THIS...

BUT HOW... HOW COULD THIS BE...? THE TOWER'S SECURITY WAS FOOLPROOF!



THE HOURGLASS IS FILLED WITH FLOWERS?!! SOMEONE MUST HAVE SOWN SEEDS IN THE SAND!!

BUT WHO COULD ...?

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THAT BRAT WITH THE BIRD! THAT GOOD FOR NOTHING--!!!

AAAA

!?

DGOOOOOOOONNN-
SPIDER GIRL
ZUZUUU-NN-!

NNNNN...

ガラガラ

ドドド

HEY, JING... THE NATIVES ARE GETTING RESTLESS!

WAAAAA!!

WAAAA!

THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO THE RESTLESS-NESS WE'RE GONNA SEE IN A MINUTE.

BURGER

GARRISON

BLAM!!

AGH!

YOU'LL BE HAPPIER IF YOU STICK TOGETHER!

GRAH!

YOU'LL NEVER GET OUT ALIVE!!

AAAAAA

GARRISON

KIR ROYALE!

HOOO

NOW WHAT ?!

I HOPE YOU HAVE A PLAN, OH KEYLESS ONE, 'CUZ WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

!!

GREAT. THE DOOR WON'T BUDGE.

UWAAH!

RISE AND SHINE, BOY!
It's the first day...
of the end of your life!

BOOO

HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT YOU DID IT, BOY. LOOKS LIKE THE CUCK-OO CLOCKS OF ADONIS HAVE GONE THE WAY OF THE DODO.

CAPTAIN ...

EVERYONE ...

HEY...DOESN'T THAT MEAN WE COULD HAVE DONE THIS OURSELVES...?

OH, YOU'LL BE WANTING THIS TO OPEN THE DOOR.

I HAD THIS FELLA MOLDED LONG BEFORE YOU GOT HERE!

IN THE PAST FIVE HUNDRED YEARS, NOTHING HAS BROKEN THE STEADFAST COFFIN-SHIELDS OF ADONIS!

GOOD THING WE BROUGHT THESE WITH US FOR PROTECTION.

YOU SAID IT, MIRABELLE!

I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS... THANKS.

I GOTTA HAND IT TO YA, JING. YOUR BOLDNESS PUT ME TO SHAME.

I FEEL LIKE YOU SOMEHOW WOKE ME FROM MY GRAVEYARD SLUMBER.

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I WAKE THE DEAD ONCE MORE!

YOU SAY I WOKE YOU UP...

C'MON, CAPTAIN, LET'S OPEN THIS BABY UP.

WOO-HOO! THE SUN HAS INDEED RISEN...

AND THE INFERNAL TIME-KEEPERS LIE THAT-A-WAY!!

UNLOCK

CLICK

COCK
A DOODLE
DOOOO
!!!

GRAPE STEPPING SONG

Hey, step! C'mon, step!!
It's time to pluck some clockwork grapes
And wake this town of timely slaves

Do it, step! Do that step!!
No time to be carefree or sleep
Check the barrel—up time creeps

Hey, step! C'mon, step!!
Go round-n-round-n-round like gears
Wind up your courage, lose your fears

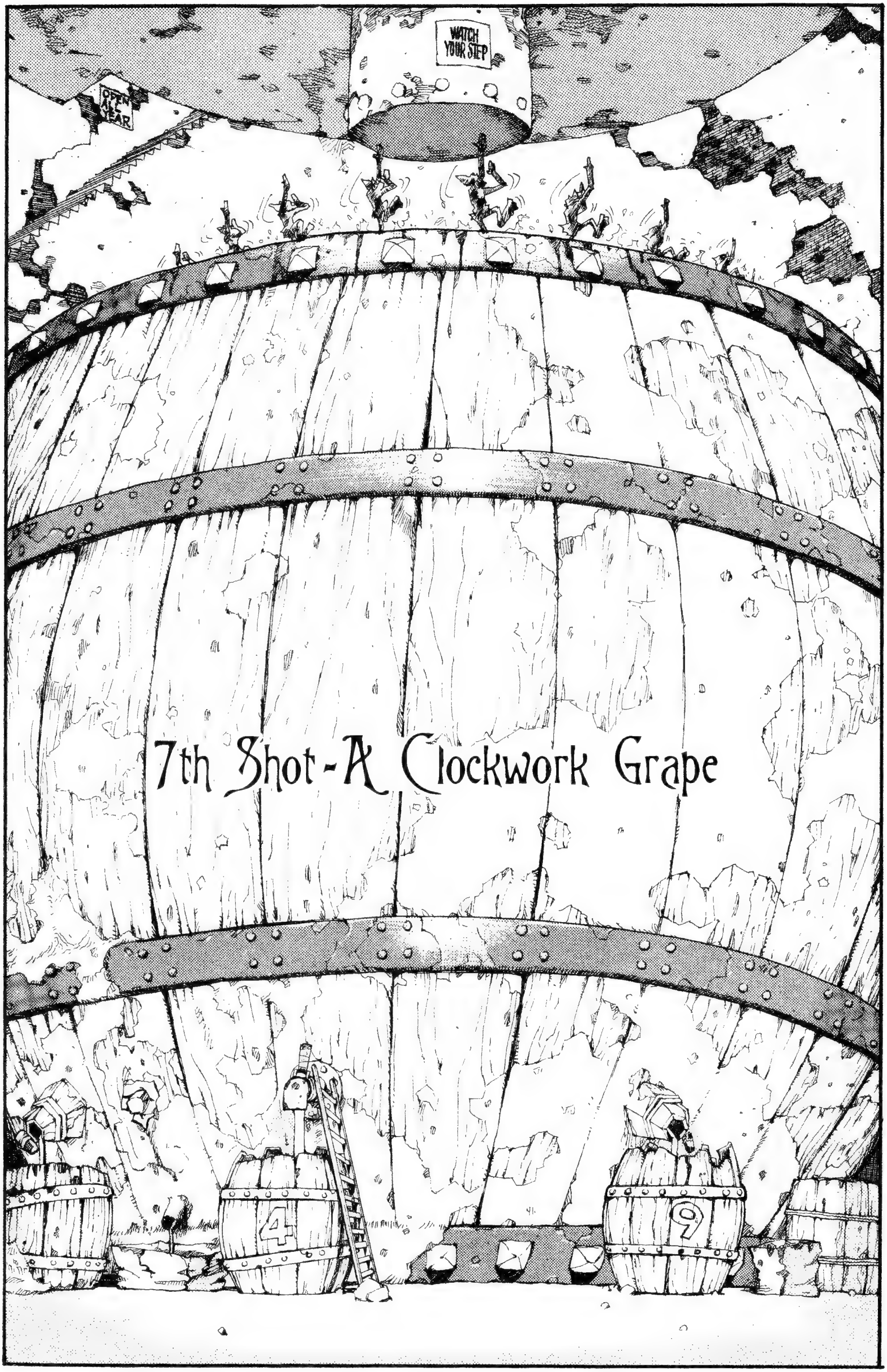
Do it, step! Do that step!!
Morning's coming, sure as tides
Without the clocks, the sun will rise!!!

(From the oral tradition
of the Imps of Adonis)

CITIZENS OF ADONIS!
CAST ASIDE YOUR CLOCKS!
THE SUN HAS RISEN AGAIN!!

SEE?
NOTHING
TO IT.

THOUGH
IT LOOKS
LIKE THERE'S
PLENTY OF
NIGHT-DWELLERS
IN HERE.



7th Shot - A Clockwork Grape

SHAAAA-

NNN-

Cross Section Diagram

EVEN THESE PLANTS HAVE TIME AT THEIR CORES, DON'T THEY? THAT MASTERGEAR...

WELL, JING? WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

RIGHT.

さっ

NOT ALL OF THEM.

HOW ARE YOU AT TREE CLIMBING, MIRABELLE?

IT'S A GRAPE THIEF!

POOF!

THERE IT IS...THIS IS THE ONE.

SO PRETTY... IT'S AS IF THEY'VE BEEN CRYSTALIZED.

YOU MEAN... THESE GRAPES?

THIS... THIS IS WHY I CAME.

Spurred on by time...
the clockwork grape vine,
which produces fruit made almost
exclusively from mere machinery,
has over time been engineered to
bear only one organic fruit.
This treasure, known as
"the Wild Bunch"...

...is what causes
the rest of the seeds
to swell under the sun,
and refines their sweetness
under the moon...

LOOK OUT!!

YOU MEAN... THEY'RE 100% GRAPE?

THIS BUNCH IS A 100% NATURAL GIFT FROM THE GODS!!

JING!!

!?

SFUU

YOU...
YOU...!

WAAAAAAAAH!!

DOW! DOW! DOW!

GIVE ME BACK ADONIS' TIME!! GIVE ME BACK MY TIME!!!

TAP

TAP

DOOOOOOMM!

スパラ!!

NOW THEN, LITTLE THIEF. WE ARE STANDING ON THE CLOCK-TOWER'S HIGHEST FLOOR.

IN OTHER WORDS...

OH.

DON'T MOVE, MIRABELLE. YOU'LL BE SAFE BACK HERE.

...THE ROOM CLOSEST TO THE AFTERLIFE!

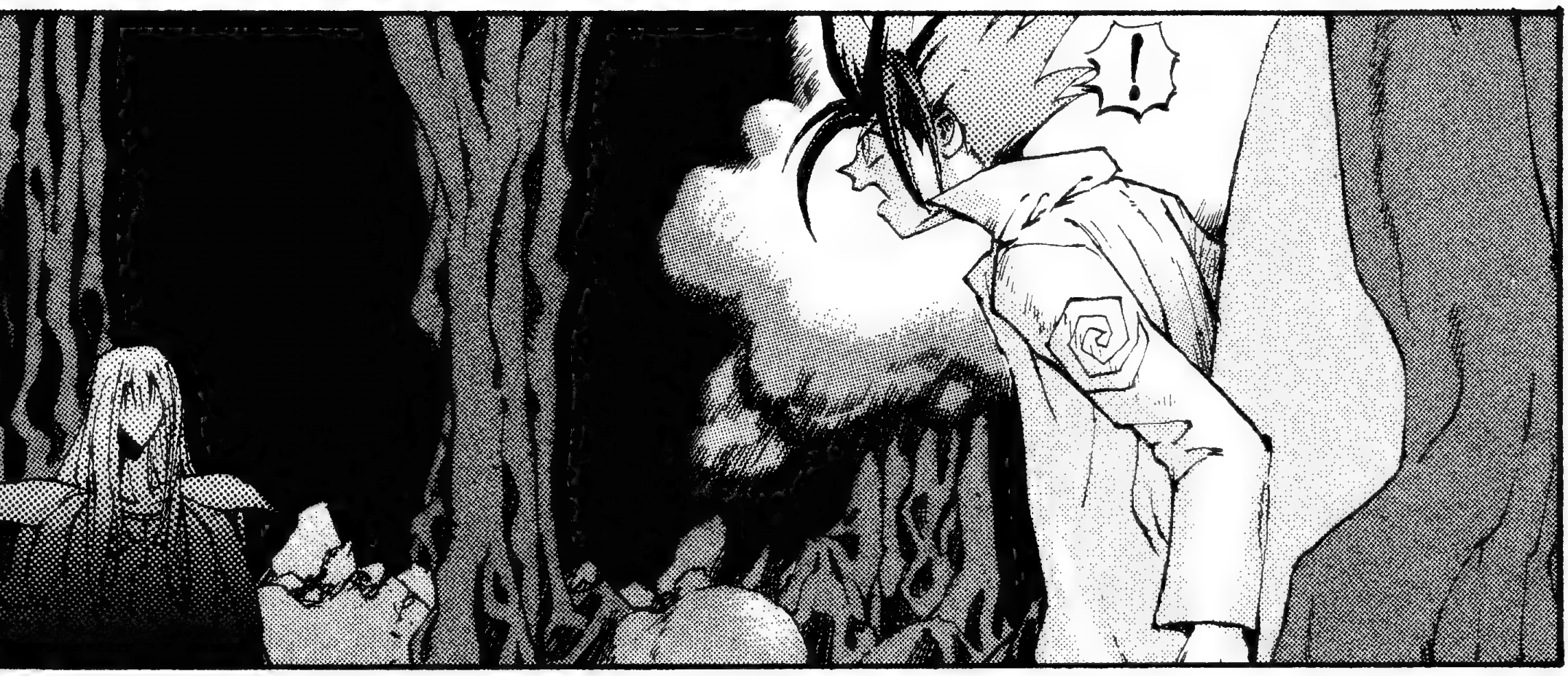
ゴゴゴゴ

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

DOWDOWDOWDO

THEY'RE...

HEY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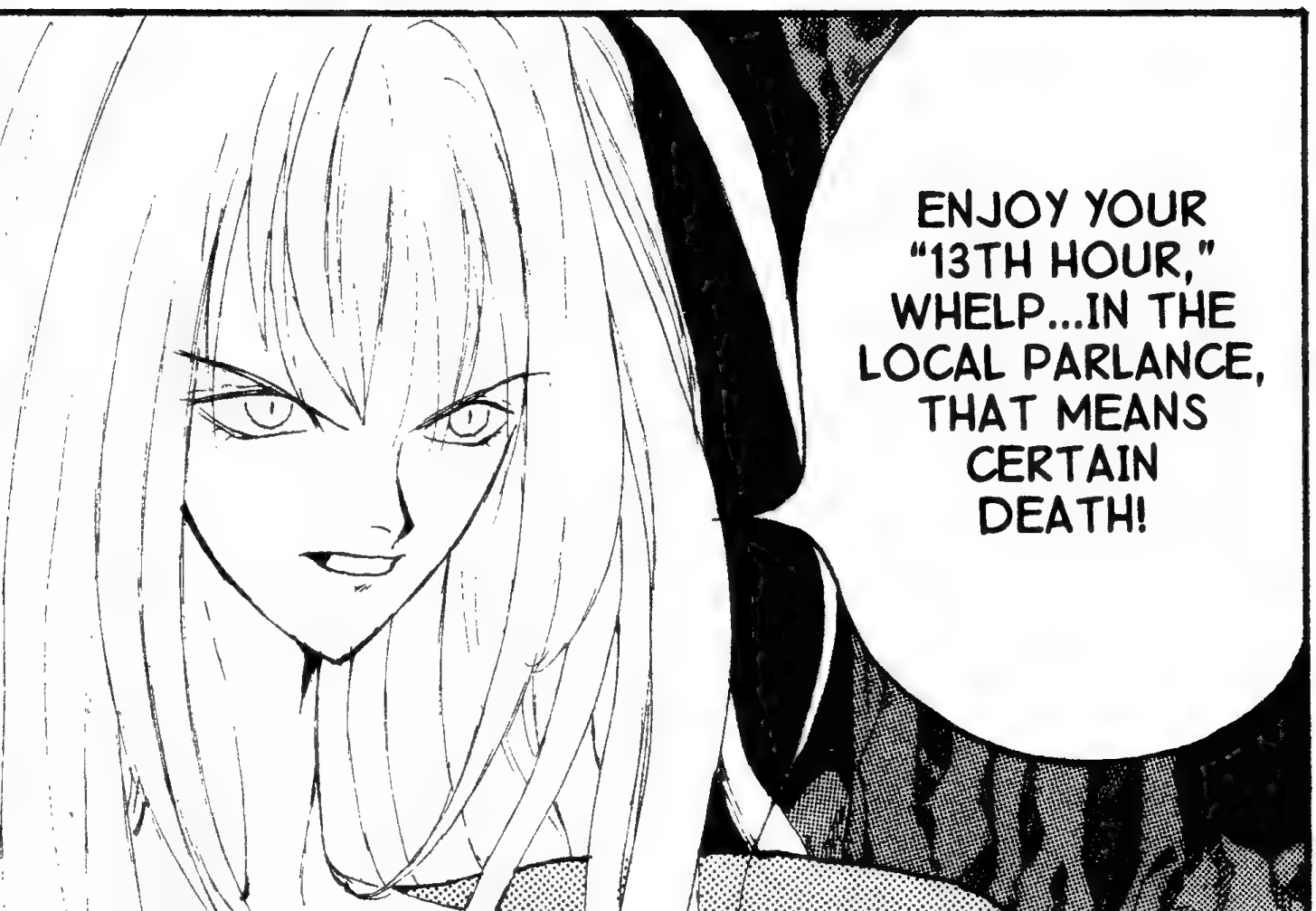
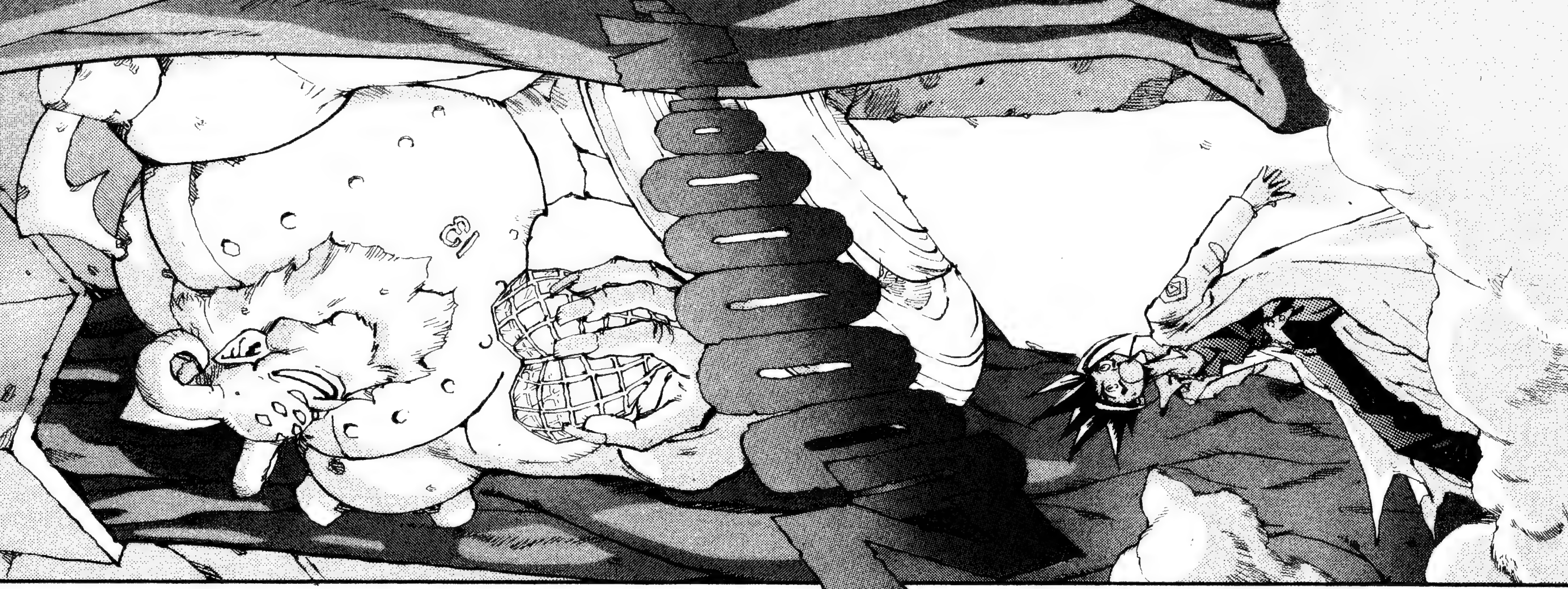
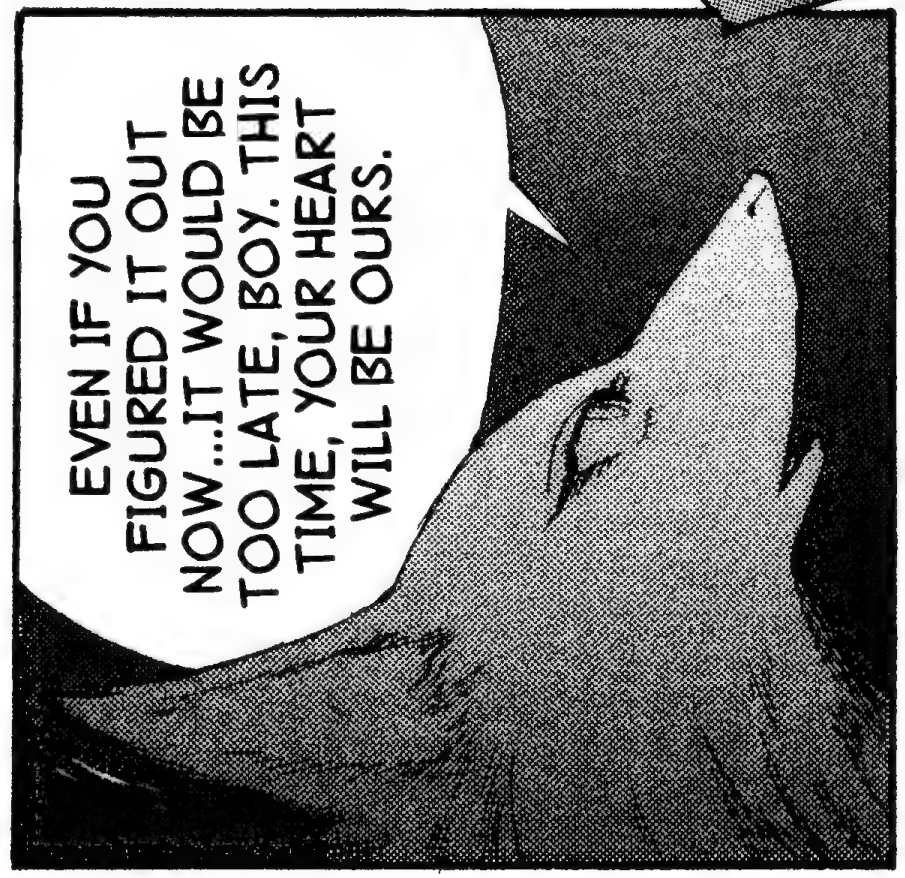
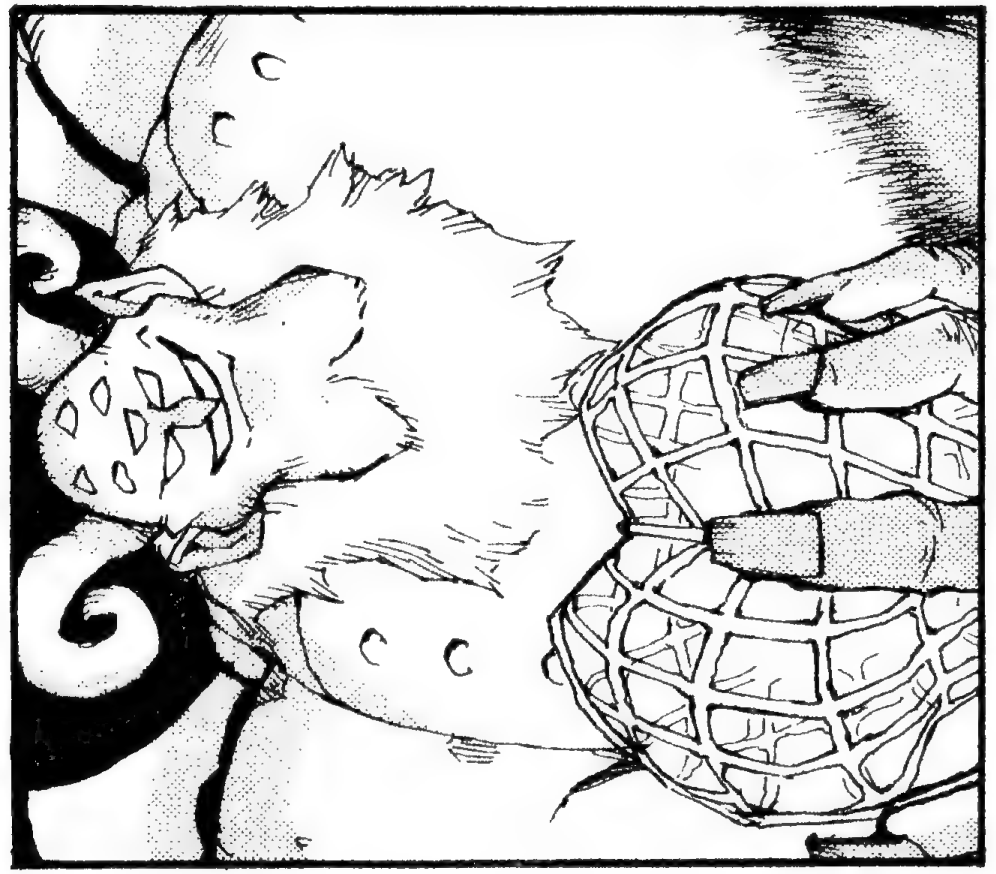

ENJOY YOUR "13TH HOUR," WHELP...IN THE LOCAL PARLANCE, THAT MEANS CERTAIN DEATH!

THEY'RE SHUTTING OUT ALL THE LIGHT!




EVEN IF YOU FIGURED IT OUT NOW...IT WOULD BE TOO LATE, BOY. THIS TIME, YOUR HEART WILL BE OURS.



AND THIS TIME, YOU DON'T HAVE THAT FOOL OF A BIRD TO DISTRACT US!

YOU'RE JUST AS NAKED IN THE DARKNESS!!

ドドド

DIGGY DOGS

WAIT--
WHAT'S ALL
THAT NOISE?!!

I...I
CAN'T
HEAR HIS
HEARTBEAT
!!!

DING DONG DING DONG

CUCKOO

NN

W-W-W-W-WHAT'S GOING ON???

DING DONG

CLANG CLANG

ZZZZZZZ!!

WHERE IS THAT BRAT?!

SHE... SHERRY... THAT THIEF...

SHER--

SHERRY!

YOU KNOW, FUR STILL SELLS AT A PRETTY HIGH PRICE...

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, SHERRY?! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!?!?!

ESPE-CIALLY FOX FUR.

GULP

YOU ARE A FOOL, MASTERGEAR.

WITH THE BETTER MAN, IT WOULD SEEM.

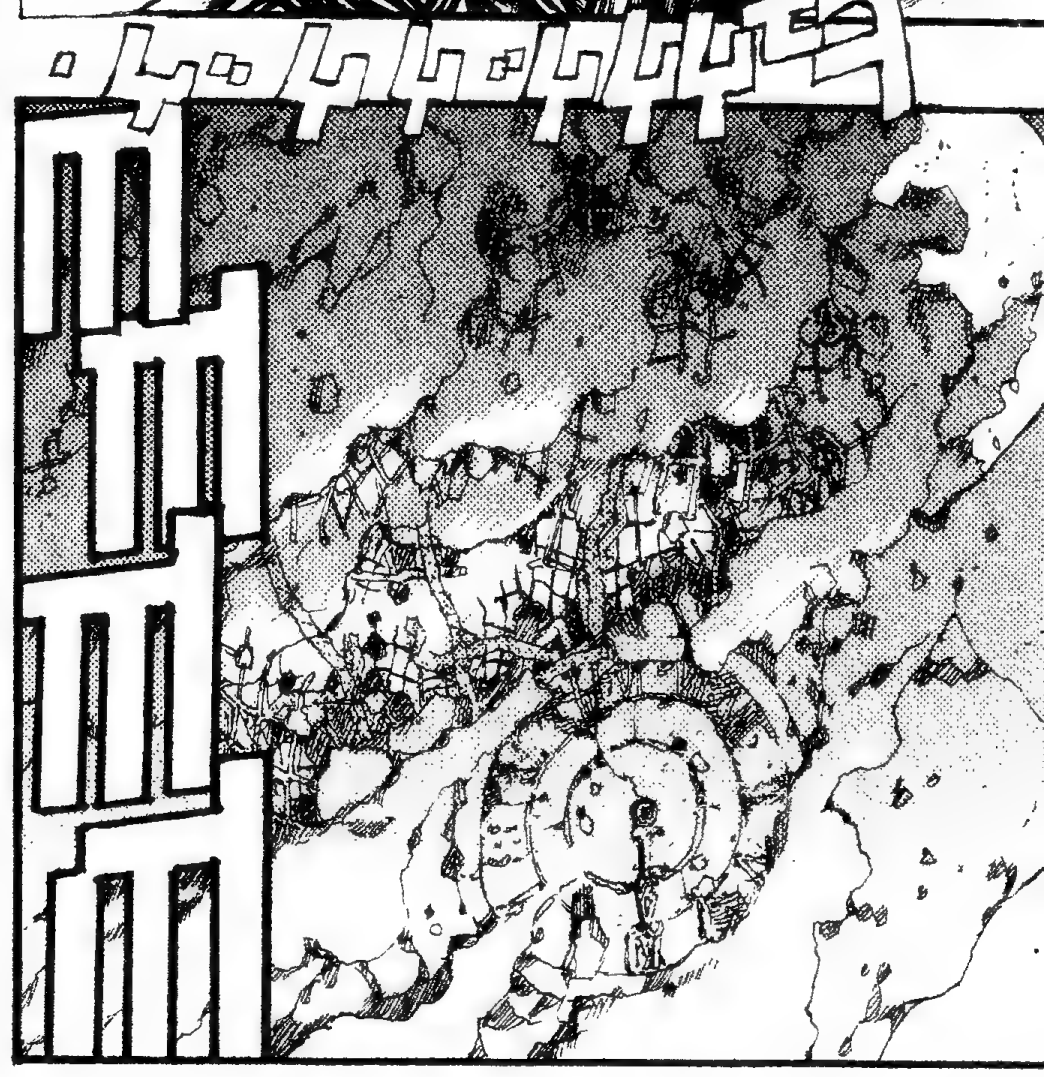
AAAHHH!!

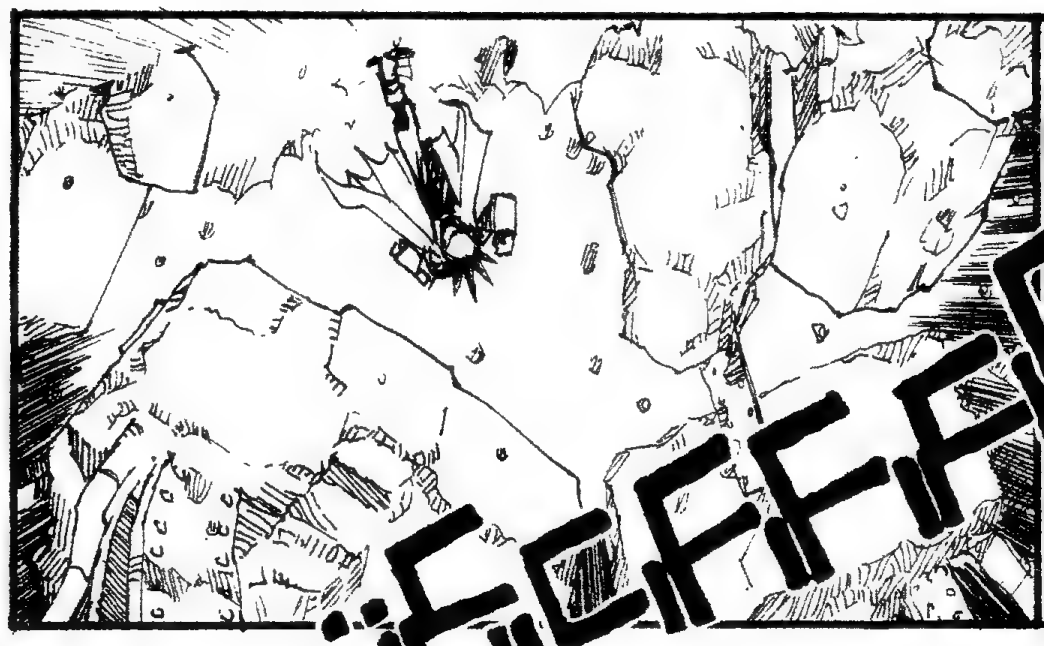
UAAAAAA

SHERRYYYYYYYYYYY!!

ZIRIRIRIRIRIRIRI...

TWITCH

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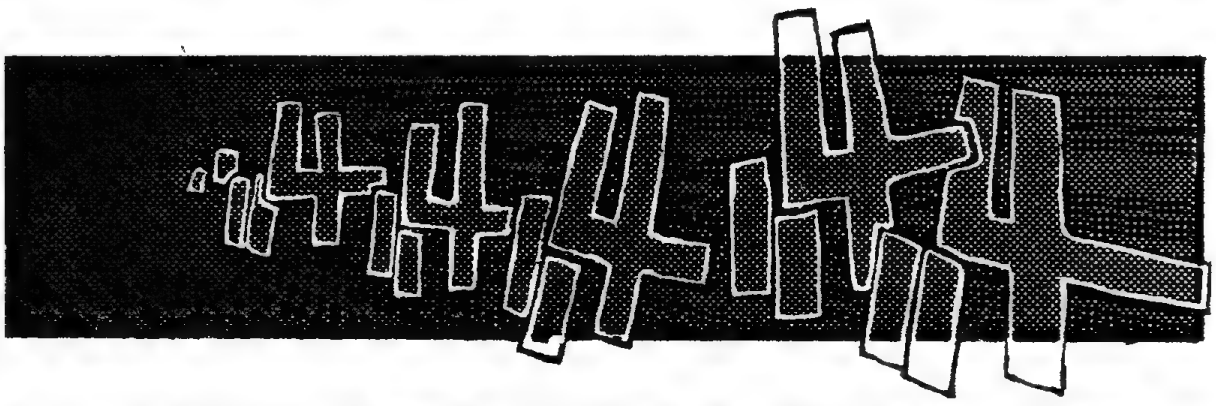

¡¡¡

!¿i?

MASTERGEAR HIMSELF IS THE HEART OF THIS CLOCKWORK MESS.

ガラ

!

OW.

UWAH!!

TWITCH

HISSSSS...

KERBLAM

LICK

HISSSSS!!

OW!!

GROWL

KIR!!

GET IN LINE.

!?

¿!

¿¡

HO HO HO!

WHEE EW.

HHH

YOOOWWW!!

ACK!

AHHHHH!!

AH, I SEE YOU'VE MET MY DEMON. SORRY-- HE CAN BE A BIT-- AFFECTIONATE.

DOOOK!!

...

AHH

KIIIIR!!

ZAN!

GAL

KIR ROYALE!!!

ZUZUZU

JING! WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?! AT THIS RATE, WE'LL BE BURIED WITH MASTERGEAR!

NO, WE WON'T! MAKE FOR THE DOORWAY!!

!G!?

JUMP OFF!!

GREAT.

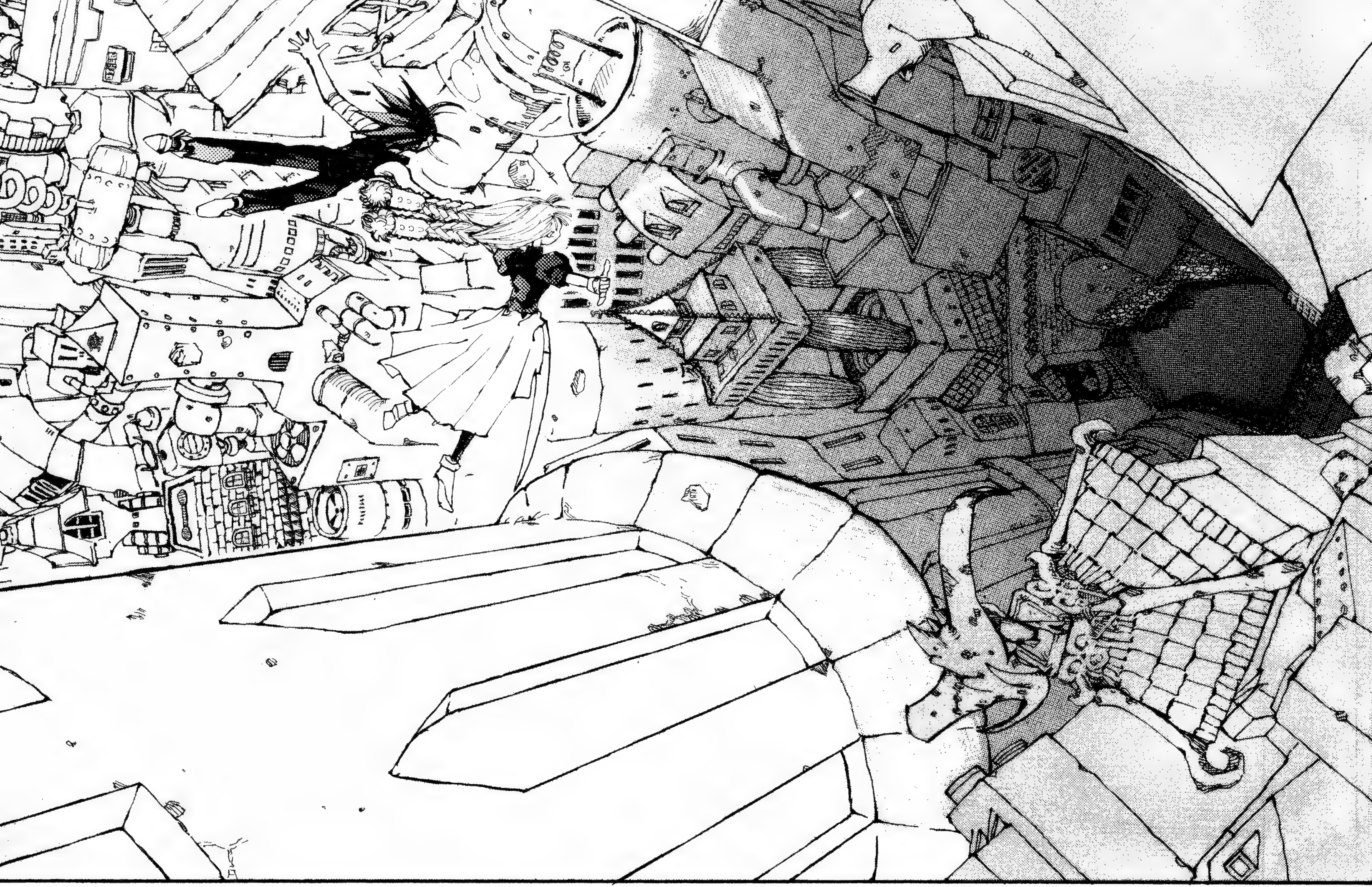
WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER. JUMP NOW!!

!?

JUMP?! BUT JING CAN'T FLY!

ズ

WHOA... WHOOOAAH!



FL-
FLOWERS?!

FLOWER

NO KISS

THAT'S IT, CHAN!

CAPTAIN?

HANDY, AREN'T THEY? NICE TOWNSFOLK SCRAPED 'EM TOGETHER FOR ME IN A JIFFY.

OH.

GASHI!!

GOOD LAD!

WELL? WE COULDN'T KILL THE THIEF WHO LIBERATED ADONIS!

OOH! THEN I'LL MAKE MY PRIDE AND JOY.. .ROAST CHICKEN!

WELL? LET'S TOAST 'IM WITH WINE...STOLEN FROM VINS MOUSSEUX!!

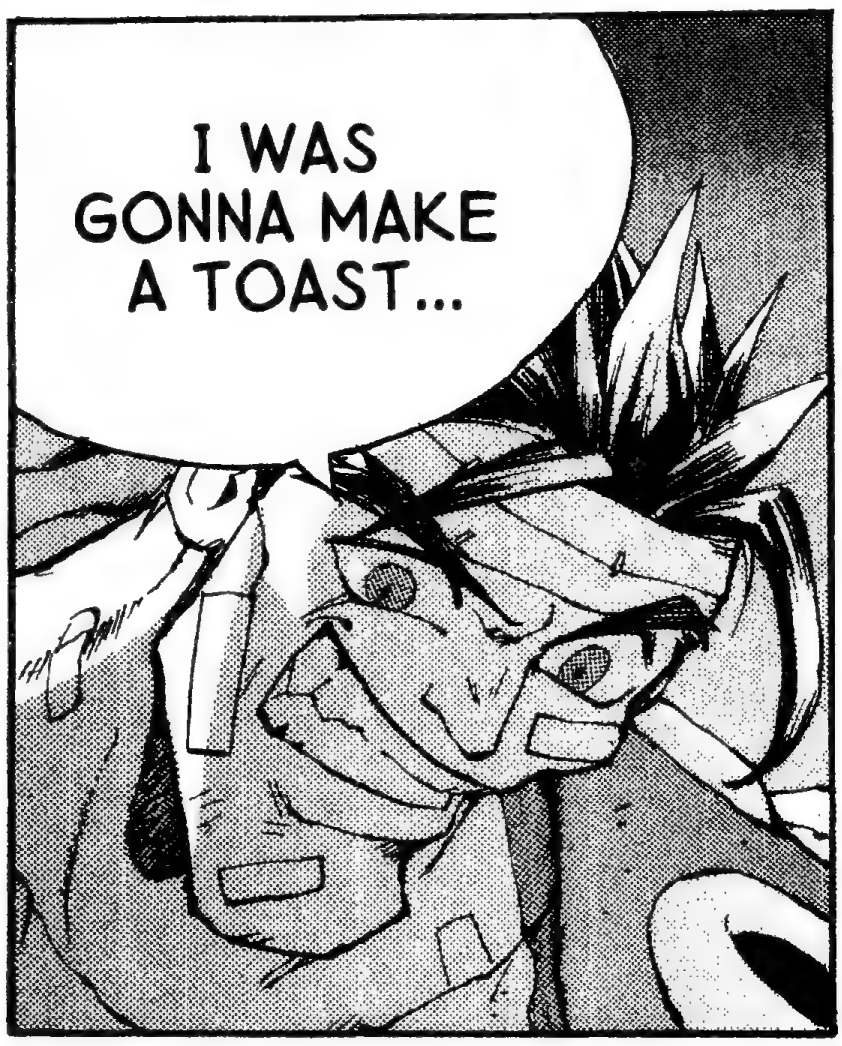
MMM... SOUNDS TASTY!

SORRY! I'M SORRY.

C'MON, EVERYONE! LET'S FORGET ABOUT TIME... AND PARTY HEARTY!!

CHEEEEERS!!

RELEASE
24 HOURS
YEMEN MAN A


I WAS GONNA MAKE A TOAST...

EH?

AHAHAH
ZZZ
HEY-- WHERE IS THAT LITTLE TWERP, ANYWAY?
AIN'T SEEN 'IM. WHY?

HEY, CAPTAIN, HAVE YOU SEEN JING? I CAN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE.

フッ

SCARF

AAAAAH...
SOOOO
GOOOOOD!
THE WILD BUNCH
TASTES
AS GREAT I
IMAGINED!!!

RUSTLE

DON'T WORRY...
I'LL BE BACK AGAIN
FOR THESE GRAPES.
AND THE ANTICIPATION
WILL MAKE MY NEXT
VISIT EVEN MORE
DELICIOUS.

YO, JING..
YOU'RE NOT GONNA
SPLIT WITHOUT PAYING
YOUR RESPECTS TO
MIRABELLE, ARE YOU?

HOW SOUR, THE GRAPES OF VICTORY... SUCH AN UPROAR FOR A MEANINGLESS FREEDOM.

HMPH.

I HAVE NO USE FOR THIS PLACE ANYMORE.

GASA!

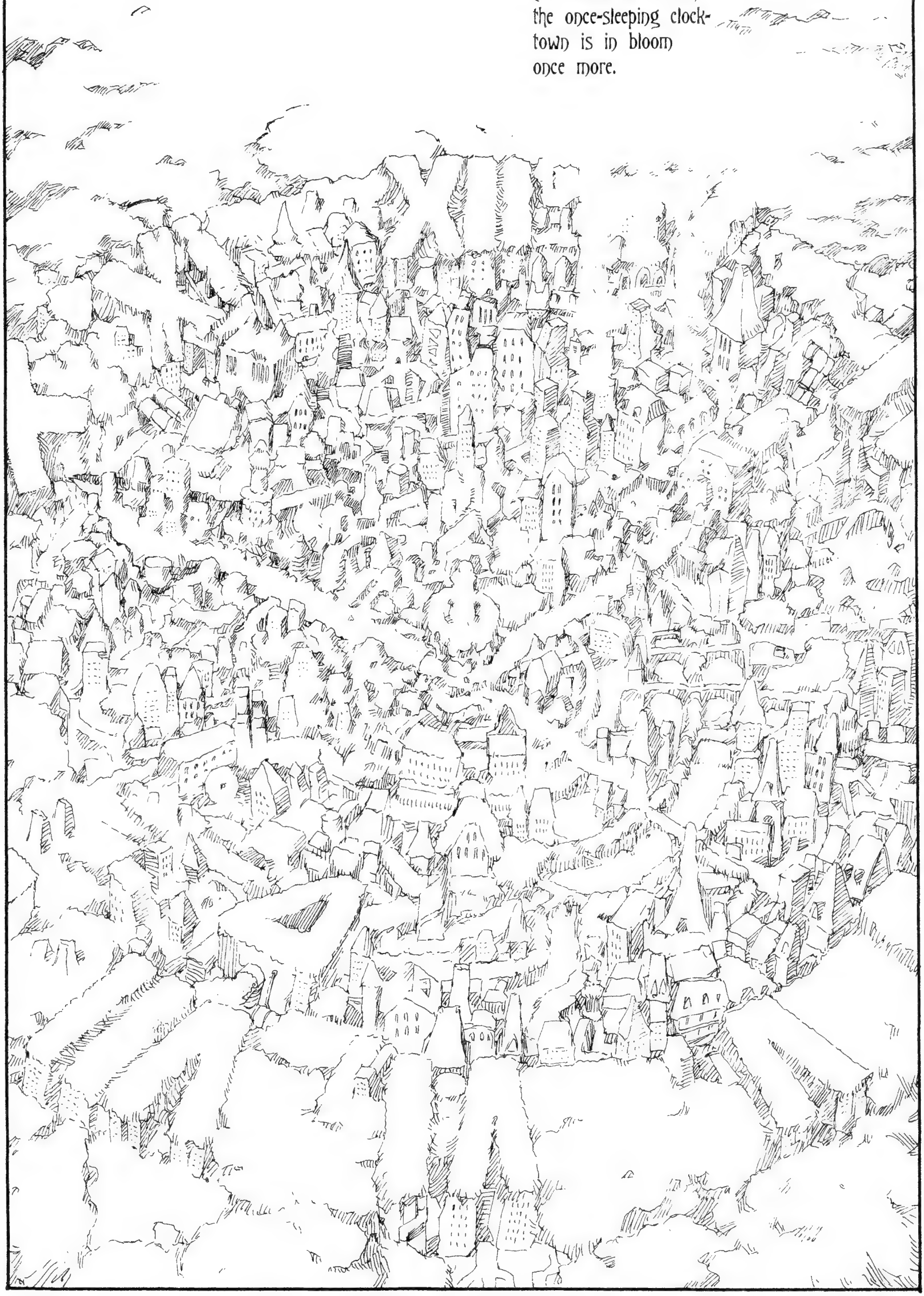
And so...

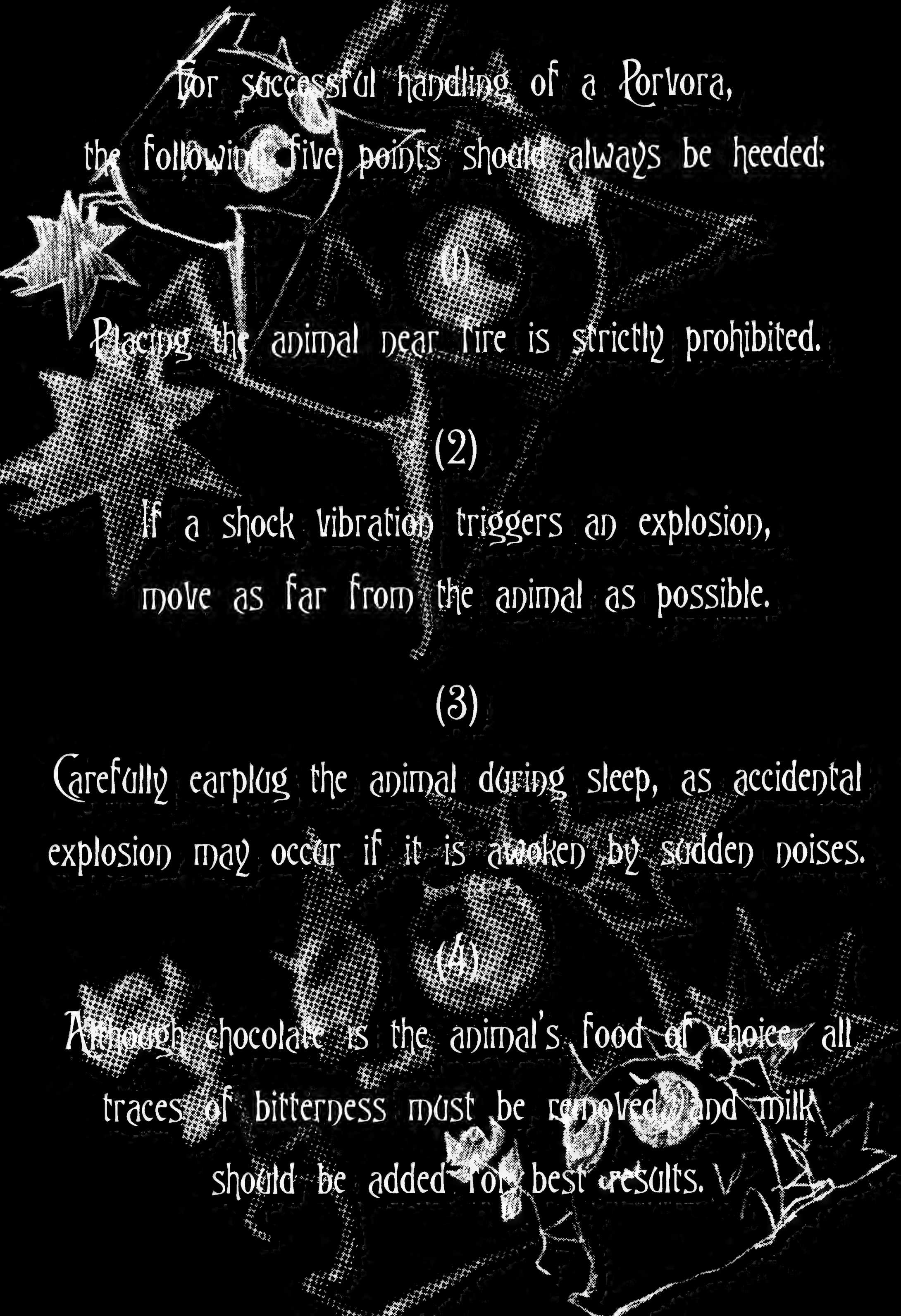
28

One year later...

...The days of mechanical fear finally passed from Adonis...

...shielded for years by
a fortress of forest,
the once-sleeping clock-
town is in bloom
once more.





For successful handling of a Porvora,
the following five points should always be heeded:

(1)

Placing the animal near fire is strictly prohibited.

(2)

If a shock vibration triggers an explosion,
move as far from the animal as possible.

(3)

Carefully earplug the animal during sleep, as accidental explosion may occur if it is awoken by sudden noises.

(4)

Although chocolate is the animal's food of choice, all traces of bitterness must be removed and milk should be added for best results.

Most importantly:

(5)

Whenever possible...

do not handle a Porvora.

(From the Authoritative Text on Handling Dangerous Animals, Vol. 11)

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT I CAN SMELL TREASURE FROM A MILE AWAY...

YOU KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL HERE... DIDN'T YOU, BOY?

AND NOW IT'S IN THIS BOX?

NUTS! NO GIRL IN THE BOX, THEN?

ｶﾘｰﾝ!!

WELL, THIS PARTICULAR TREASURE HASN'T SEEN A HUMAN FOR MANY DECADES.

HEYYY... NOT AS HOT AS I THOUGHT IT'D BE.

C-COME NOW...NO TOUCHING... NO TOUCHING.

IT'S AS BEAUTIFUL AS THEY SAY! A MINIATURE UNIVERSE!

W-WATCH OUT...IT'S FLOATING...

PORVORAS, THE LIVING BOMBS
8TH SHOT - THE MOST DANGEROUS CARGO

OLD-TIMER?

WELL, TECHNICALLY IT'S A SYSTEM OF A STAR GEM. THE ENERGY OF AN ENTIRE STAR IN ONE TINY...

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM THAT'S, YOU KNOW, *BIGGER* THAN THIS ONE?

OR HAVE YOU EVER NOT WONDERED?

HMM?

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON THE PHENOMENON OF SOLAR ROCK, THE PIVOT POINT OF ANY SOLAR SYSTEM, WERE MADE MANY YEARS AGO...

TUG

I...I'D THINK THERE WOULD BE ONE, YES.

THIS MOUNTAIN!!

NOOOOOW WWWW...

Mercury

Sungria

The Gulf

I'VE HEARD IT'S BURIED DEEP WITHIN THE HILLS OF SUNGRIA.

SOUNDS COOL. HOW DO I GET TO THE MOUNTAIN?

IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, THAT STAR GEM SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEAD YOU TO AN ENTIRE GALAXY OF SOLAR SYSTEMS

BOY I'LL STRAIGHT FLAS

WE

PEDESTRIA NS BEYOND THIS POINT

YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW, DON'T YOU, KIDDO? THE TRUTH, THEN.

I DON'T KNOW YOUR LIMITS. BUT...

ROCK

SCISSORS

YOU CAN'T GO!
I ABSOLUTELY FORBID IT!!

THE GOBLET FAMILY HAS A MONOPOLY ON THE EXCAVATION OF SOLAR ROCK. NO ONE BUT FAMILY INTIMATES CAN EVEN COME NEAR SUNGRIA!

BUT?

BUT...

...THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO ENTER THE MOUNTAIN...

NEPTUNE

DYNAMITE RESTAURANT 1801

BEWARE OF THE PORVORA

DRUG STORE

8th Planet Town, Neptune

C'MON MEN, I'VE GOT A GREA-A-A-T BIG JOB FOR YOU-- AT A GREAT BIG PRICE--MAAHH!

1000 GOLD COINS?!! YEE-HA!

C'MON--JUST ONE BRAVE VOLUNTEER? JUST ONE?

NEPTUNE TIMES
OUT A NUCLEAR ERANCE

THE PAY IS A WHOPPING 1000 GOLD COINS!! A-A-A-ACT NOW! WHEN IT'S GONE, IT'S GONE-- MAAHH!!

ウウ ムム

SO-- WHAT'S THIS HERE JOB YER BLEATIN' ABOUT?!

SIMPLE--CARRYING THIS FAMILY OF PORVORAS TO SUNGRIA!!! EXCITING, ISN'T IT--MAAHH.

PORVORA

BAAAAAAAAAM

BOH

BOH

KARATE

. . . . . .

HMM. THEY CLEANED OUT PRETTY FAST.

MUST BE A PRETTY DANGEROUS JOB...

...BUT THEY'RE SO CHUBBY AND CUTE!

YES, YES-- AND IF YOU PLAY YOUR CA-A-A-ARDS RIGHT, I JUST MIGHT HAVE A JOB OPENING TO TAKE THESE CUTE WIDDLE GUYS TO SUNGRIA--

CLICK!

BOOOOO...

WELCOME TO NEPTUNE

WANTED

OUCH!!

ESCAPE TO PARIS

HOOA

UUGH...

DDF!

ゴォォォ…

ォォォ…

YOU'RE NEW AROUND HERE, AREN'T YOU?

PORVORAS ARE LIVING BOMBS. SO MUCH AS RUB THEM THE WRONG WAY AND THEY'LL GO OFF IN YOUR HAND LIKE A FIRE-CRACKER.

!

L... LOVELY WOMAN. TAD VIOLENT, BUT...

THERE ARE CORPORATE CRIMINALS OUT THERE WHO WOULD USE THE PORVORAS' EXPLOSIVE POWER TO EXCAVATE JEWELS AND MINERALS.

BOOOMB!!

HA HA HA

DIDN'T YOUR MOMMY TELL YOU NOT TO PLAY WITH FIRE?

NOW, STEP ASIDE BANDITO AND LEAVE THE FUZZY DYNAMITE TO ME.

ガちゃっ

SO, CAN I GET AN ADVANCE PAYMENT?

EH...? OH...NO. NOW, WHEN YOU REACH SUNGRIA...

ALL RIGHT, NIÑO. ONE MORE WARNING, THEN I'M GONNA GET UPSET. DON'T MAKE ME EXPLODE.

!?!

EXPLODE? YOU MEAN YOUR NOSE?

BLAM!

AH-CHOO!

BLESS YOU!!

AH... AH...

!!
!?
MEOW
YOU REALLY ARE ASKING FOR IT, AREN'T Y-- HUH?!
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
...HOW MANY PORVORAS WILL I BE TAKING WITH ME?
SO...
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
IIIEEEEEEE!

BAAAAAAAAWN!

DON'T LET THEIR LOOKS DECIEVE YOU... WA-A-A-ATCH OUT. GOT IT?

CA-A-A-AREFUL, BOY. EVEN THE OLD, WEAK ONES HAVE EXPLOSIVE POWER.

UH-HUH. LET'S GET GOING BEFORE THE SUN GOES DOWN.

I'LL WATCH OUT FOR YOU, JING.. FROM AFAR. CALL ME WHEN YOU GET BACK.?

YAAA!

DANG KEEP AWAY!

OH-- OH--!!

!?

!!!?

HHHH!

WILL...

...WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?

8
STOP
DANGER

BOOOOOMB!!

BOOOOOMB!!

BOOOOOMB!!

BOOOOOMB!!

YEP...THOSE ARE THE GUYS DIGGING FOR THE JEWELS...I'D BET MY LIFE ON IT!

DANGER KEEP AWAY

スリスリ

ゴトン

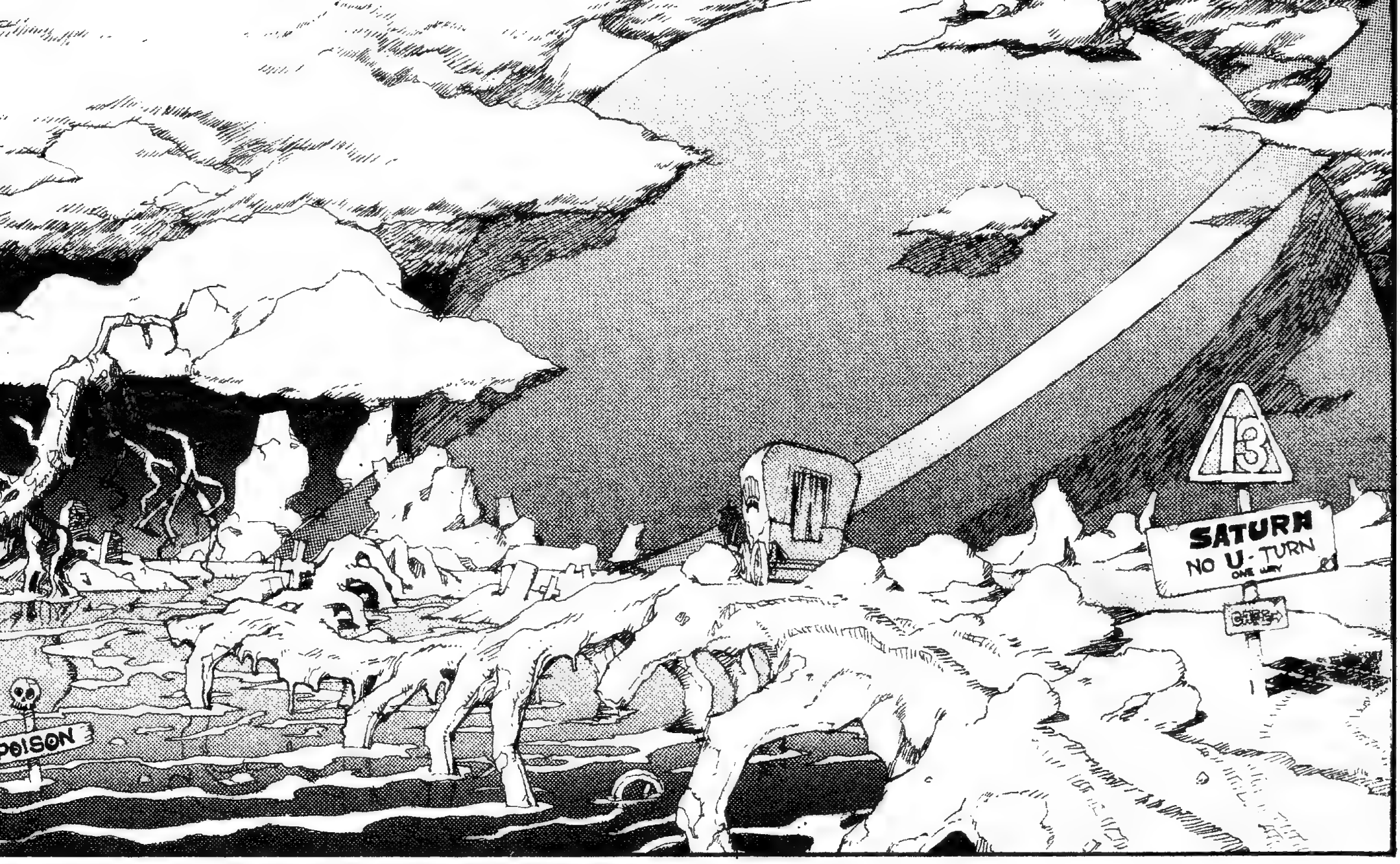
ゴトン

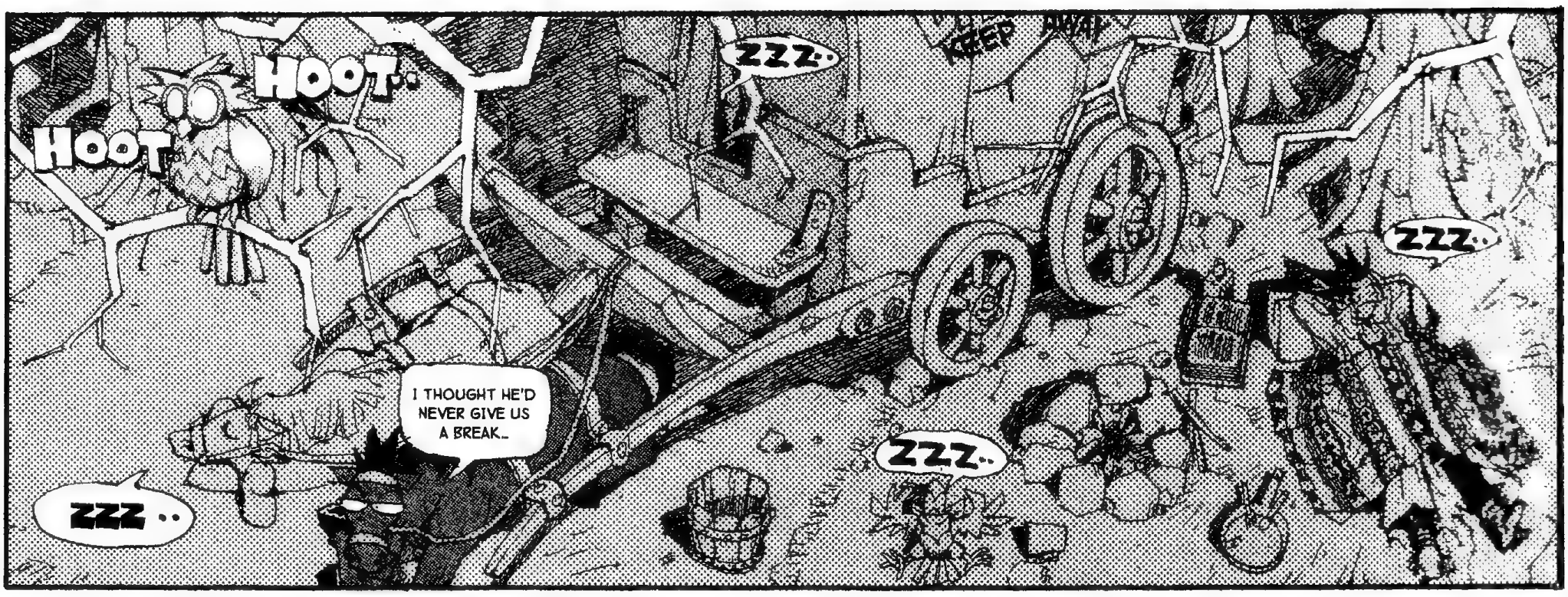
SO LEMME GET THIS STRAIGHT--WHEN WE GET TO SUNGRIA, THESE PUFFBALLS ARE GONNA BE USED AS POWDER KEGS?

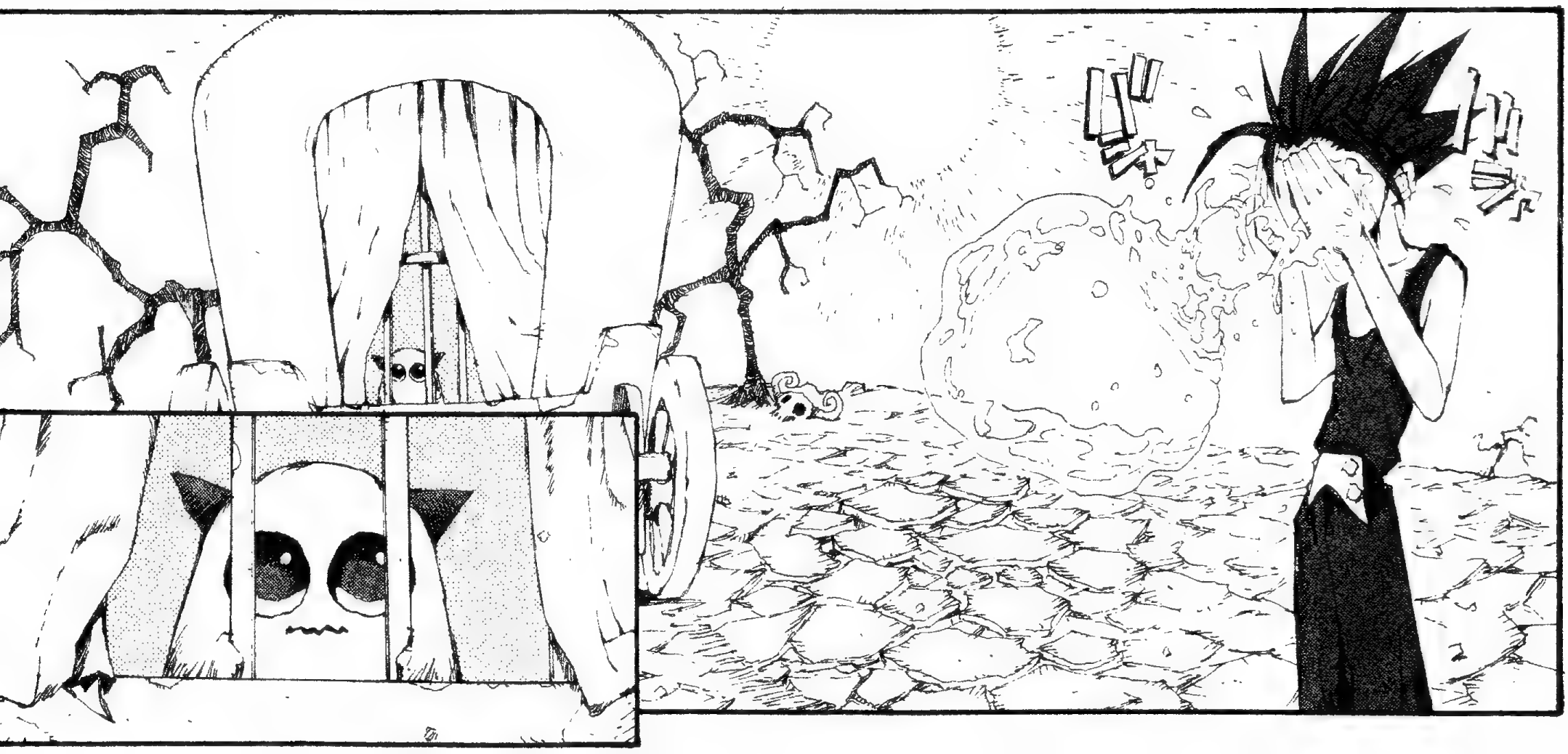
ガタガタ...

DANGER KEEP AWAY

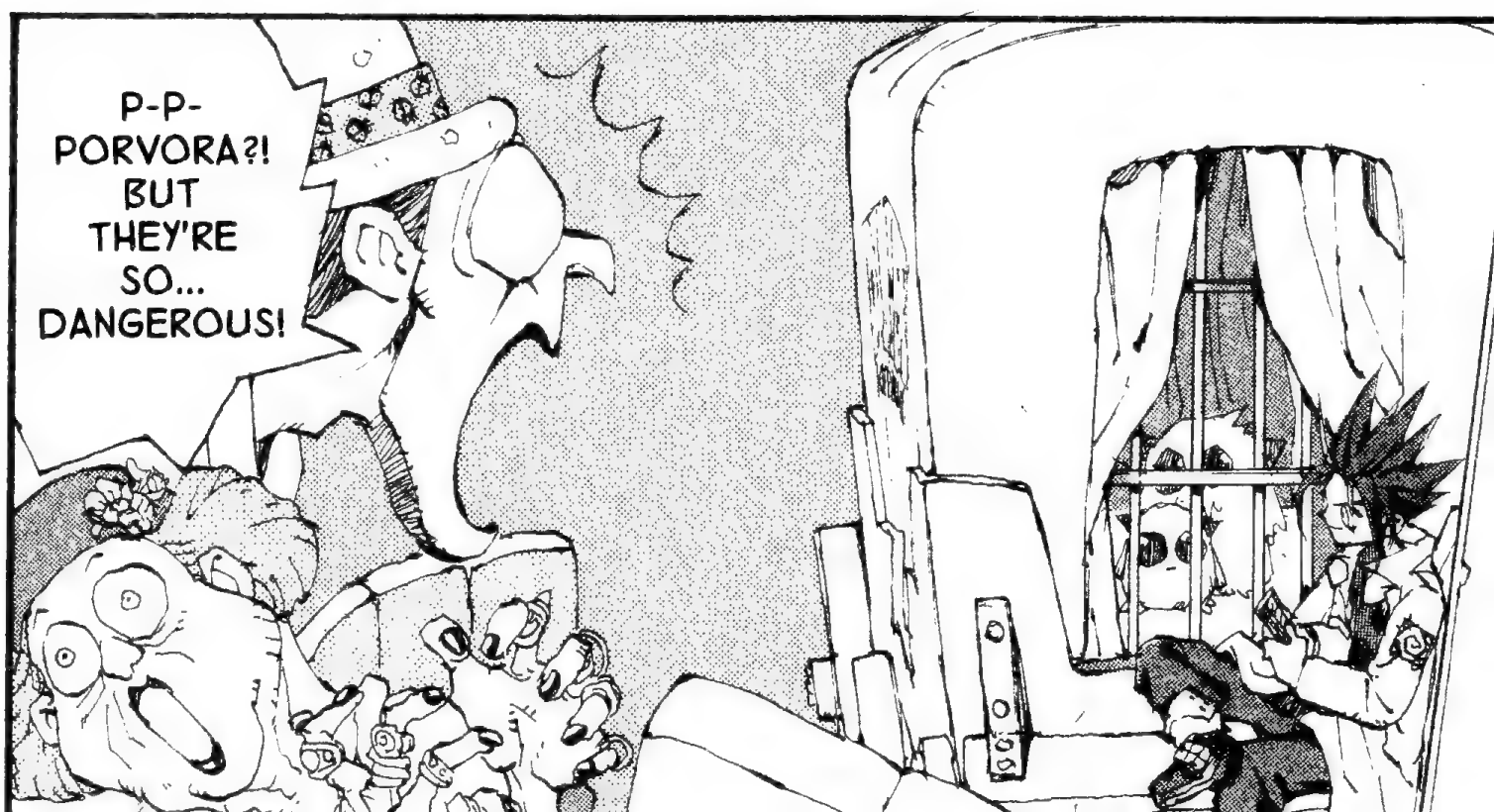
BOOOOOOMB

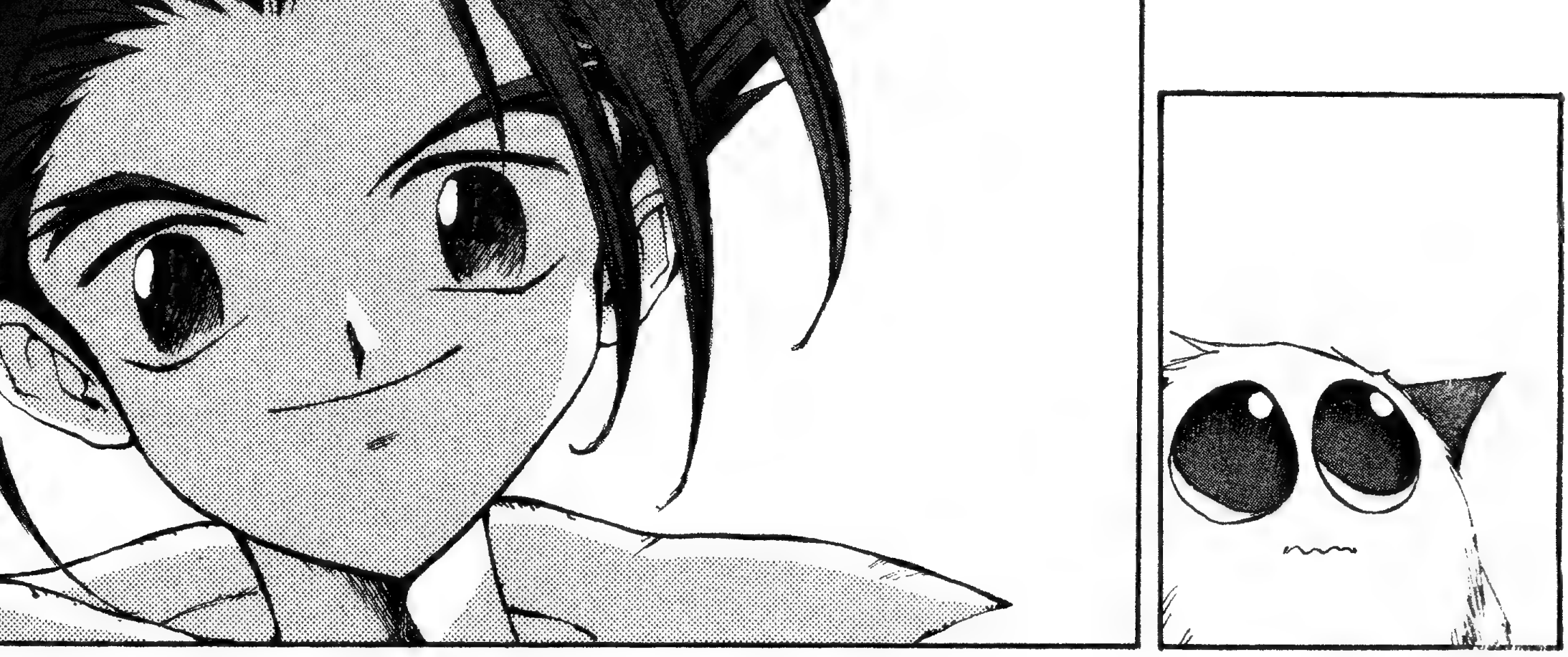

13
SATURN
NO U-TURN
ONE WAY
POISON

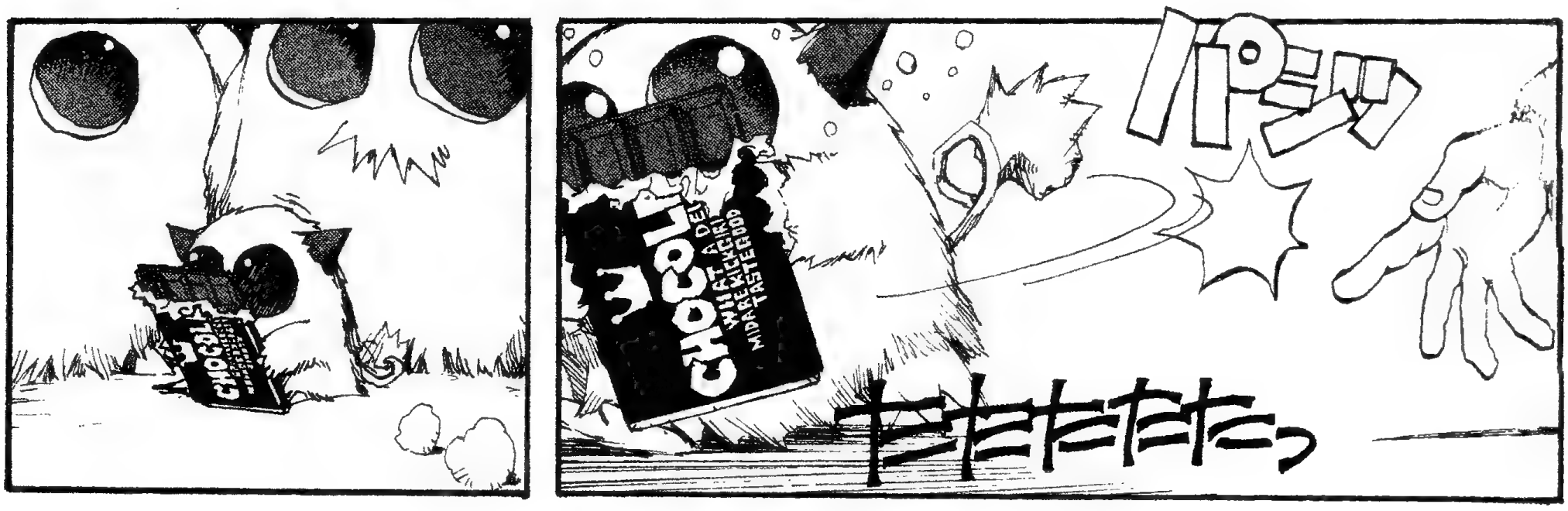

HOOT..
HOOT
ZZZ..
KEEP AWAY
ZZZ..
I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER GIVE US A BREAK..
ZZZ..
ZZZ..

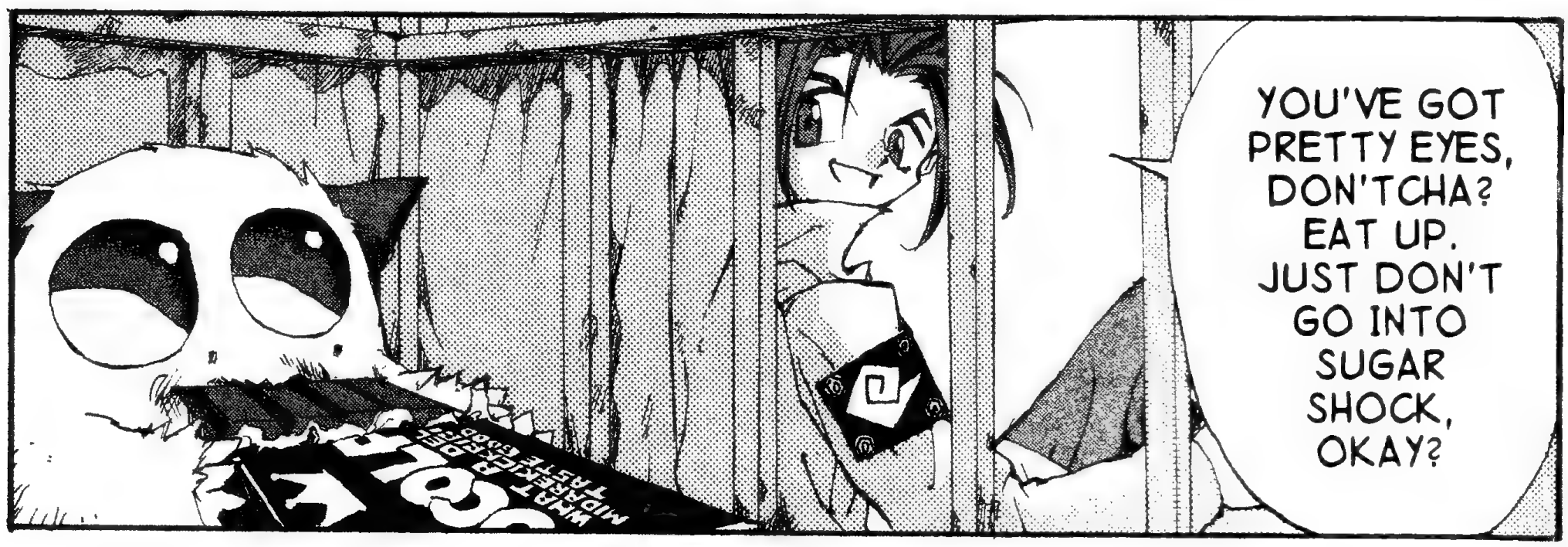


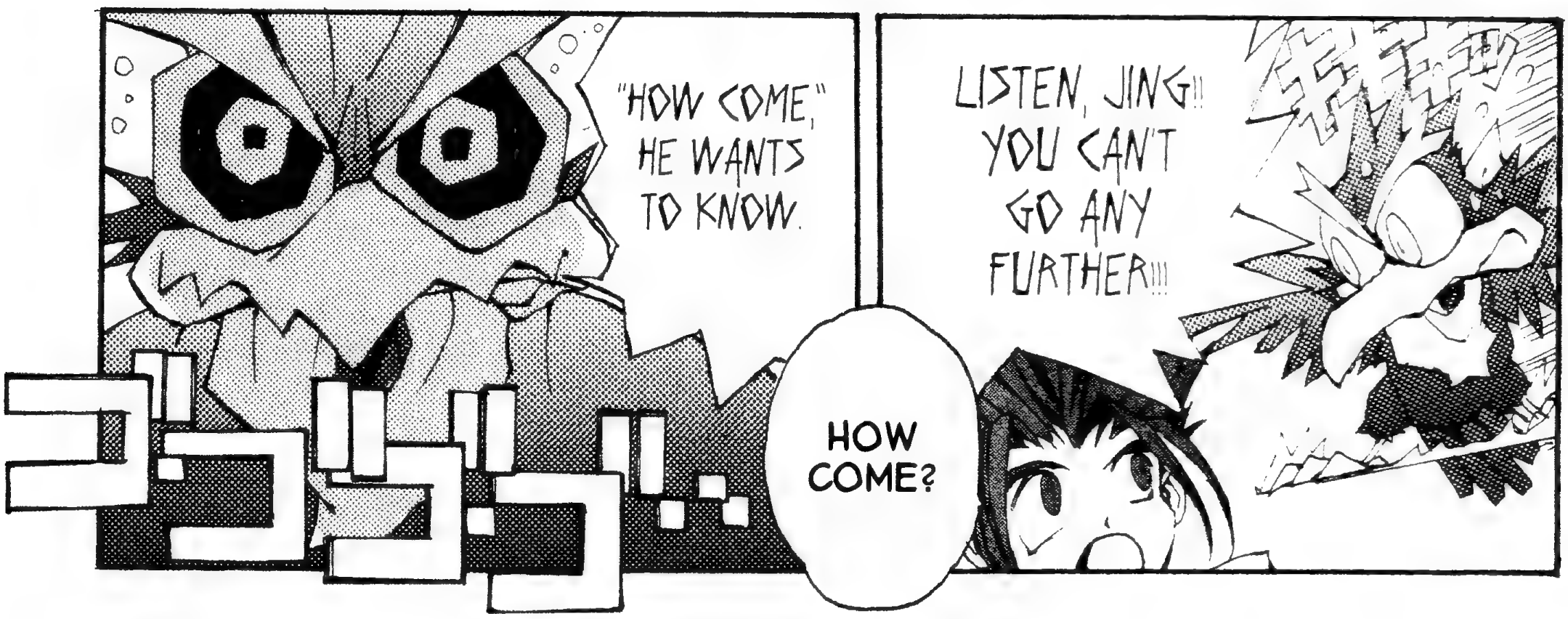
5TH Planet Town, Jupiter

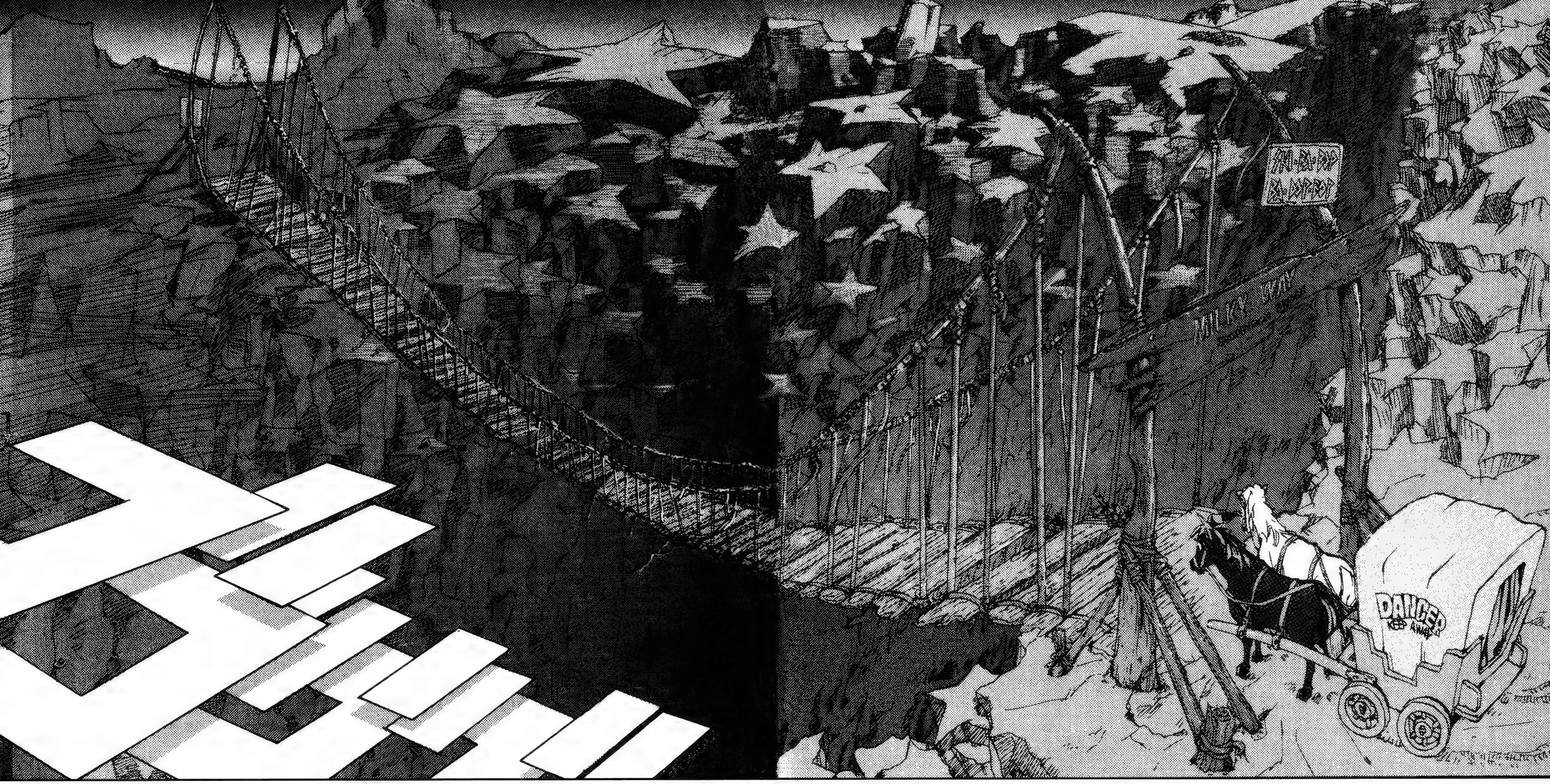


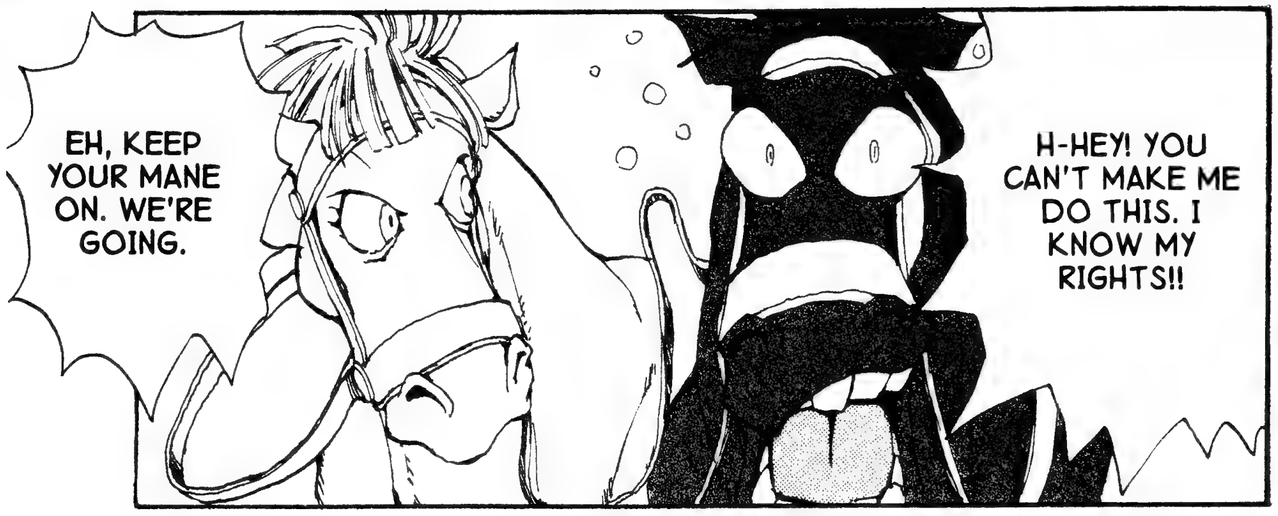



CHOCO!
パーッ
ヒヒヒヒヒ

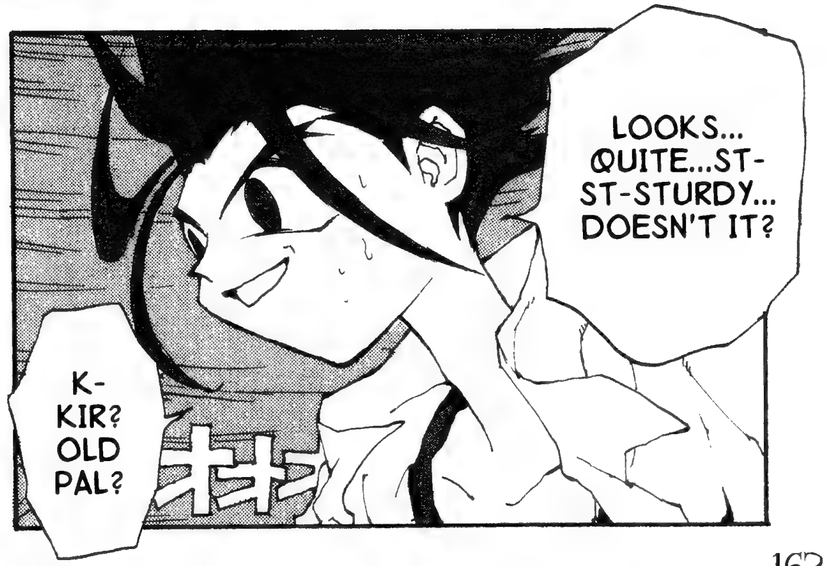

YOU'VE GOT PRETTY EYES, DON'TCHA? EAT UP. JUST DON'T GO INTO SUGAR SHOCK, OKAY?


"HOW COME," HE WANTS TO KNOW.
HOW COME?
LISTEN, JING!! YOU CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER!!!
ゴゴゴゴゴ…


MILKY WAY
DANCE!


EH, KEEP YOUR MANE ON. WE'RE GOING.
H-HEY! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME DO THIS. I KNOW MY RIGHTS!!

YO, JING, WHAT'S THE HOLD-UP? CROSS OVER ALREADY! DON'T LEAVE ME IN SUSPENSE.


K-KIR? OLD PAL?
LOOKS... QUITE...ST-ST-STURDY... DOESN'T IT?

ゴォォォ

ガ

ッ

ゴゴゴ

DANGER KEEP OUT

WOOAAAH!

WHINNN

PHEW

BIG W

DANGER
KEEP AWAY

CREAK...

CREAK...

JING!!
THE PORVORAS ARE ON THE VERGE OF EXPLODING...THEY CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!!!

HO HO

HO HO

OH!

YEAH? THANKS FOR TELLING ME, NOW THAT WE'RE SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF A FLIMSY SUSPENSION BRIDGE!!!

GUL

THAT'S MY BAGGAGE YOU'RE CARRYING !!!

YEAH POOR

I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR THIS YOUNG LADY...HER TIMING IS EXCEEDINGLY POOR.

TRUE FIGHTIN' SPIRIT!

PIRI...

PIRI..

PIRI..

ガタ

ガタ

ガタ

ガキッ!

AAAAAAAH!

AAAAAAAH!

AAAAH--

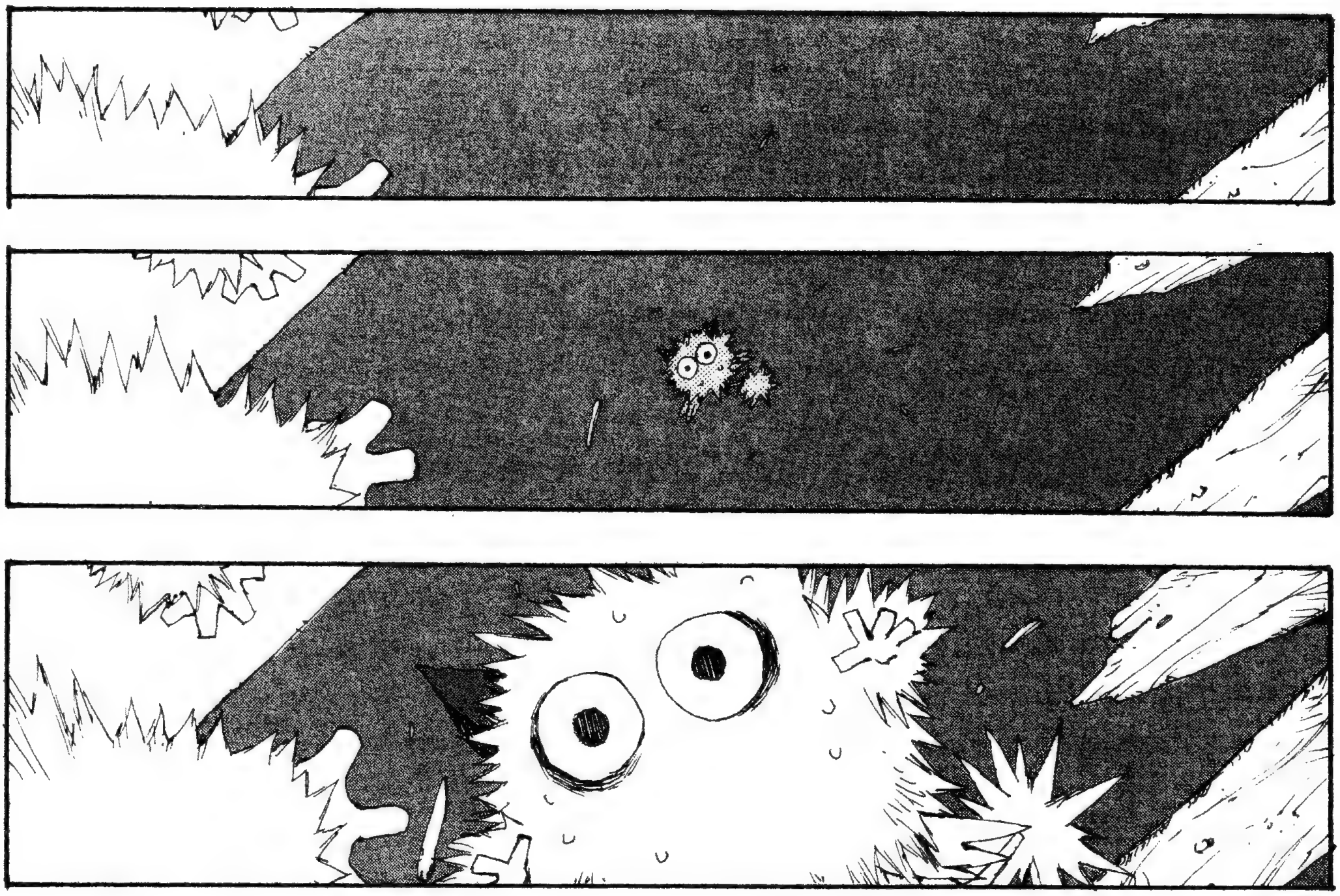
DANGER

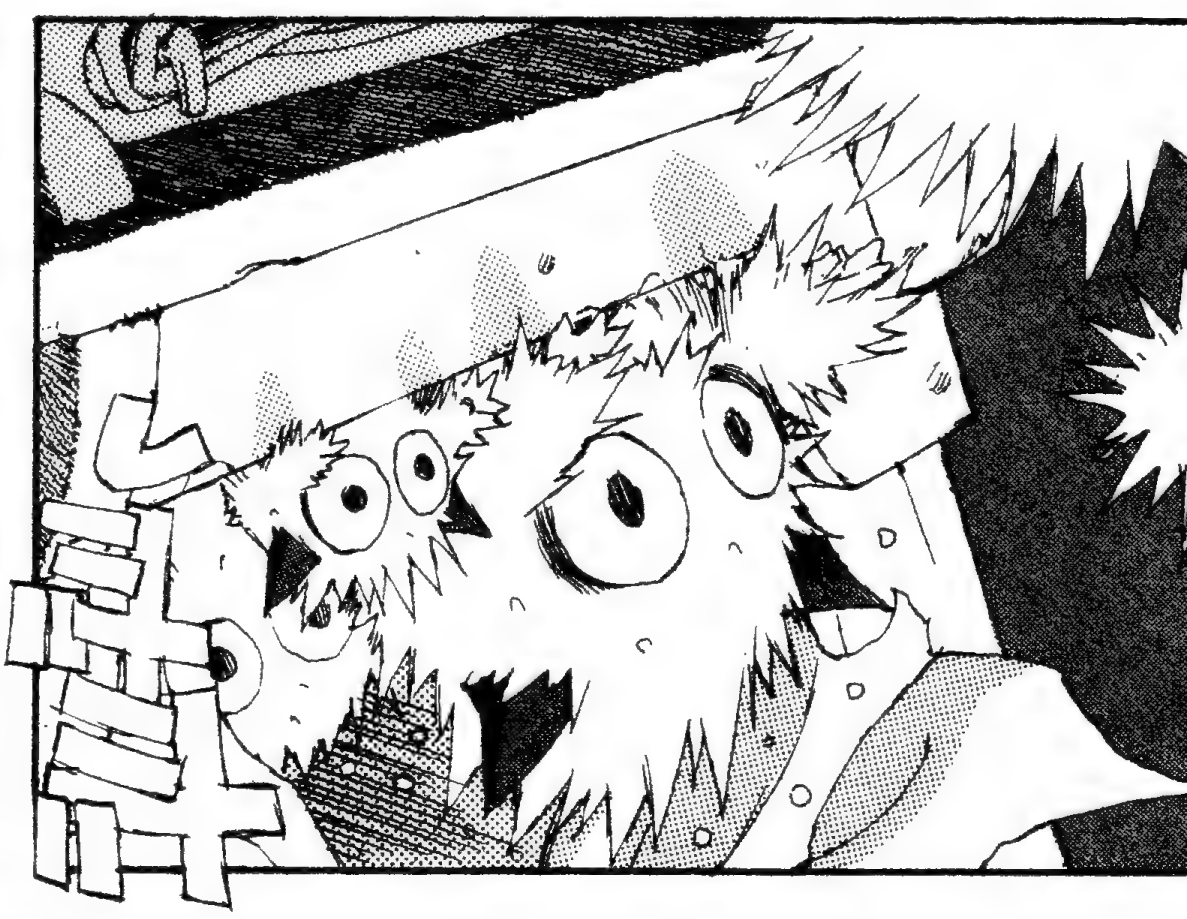
コツ

コツ

CREAK

CREAK





BOOOOOOOOOOMB!

KYAAH!!

DEAD RED

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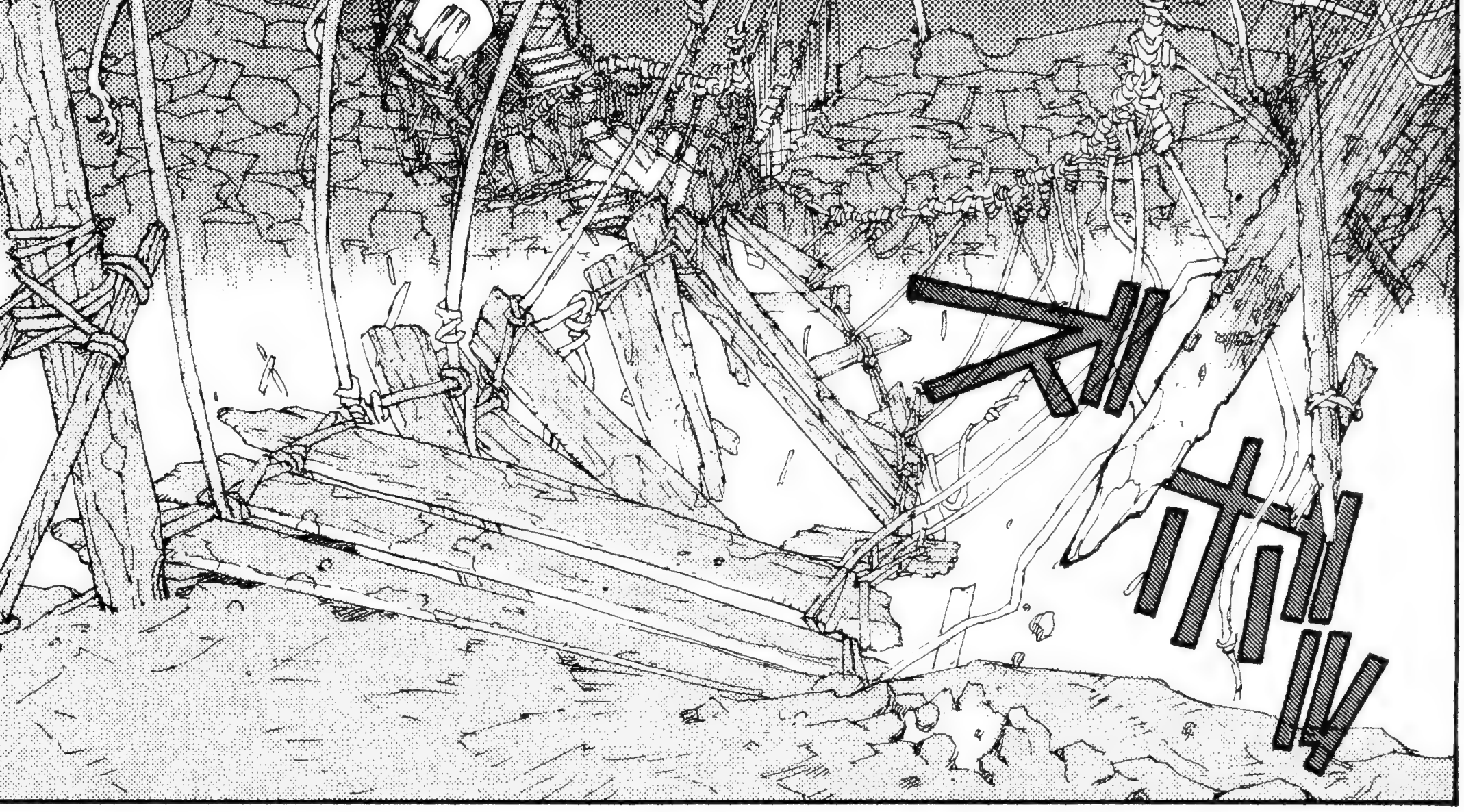
ﾐｼｬｯ

ﾐｼｬｯ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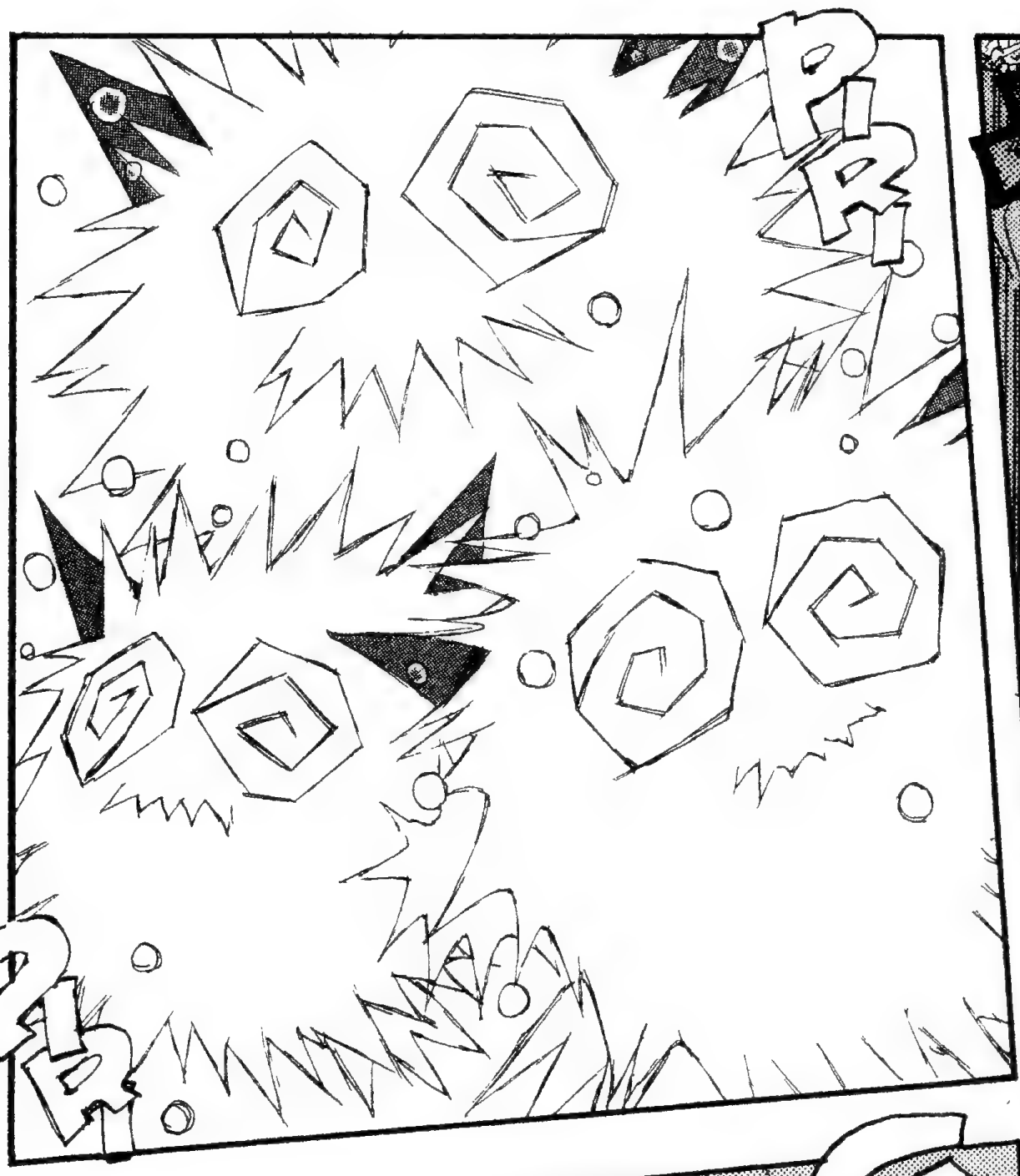
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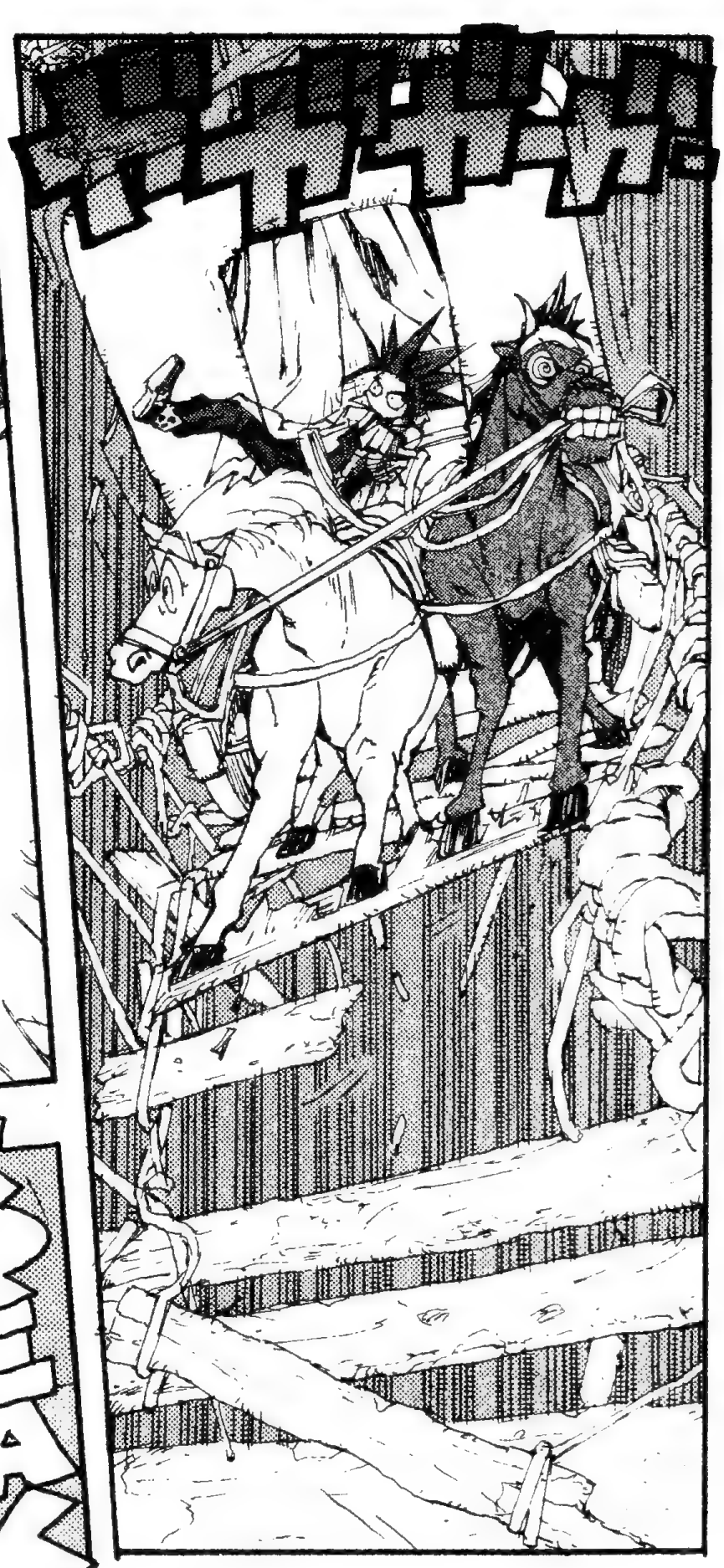

HAHAHA

!
CREAK.
CREAK.

ONE MORE RAIL AND WE'RE YESTERDAY'S MERCENARIES!!

JING...WE CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER.

CREAK

GH--

MAY I BORROW THAT SMART MOUTH FOR A BIT, KIR?

KIR ROYALE!!!

UHN?

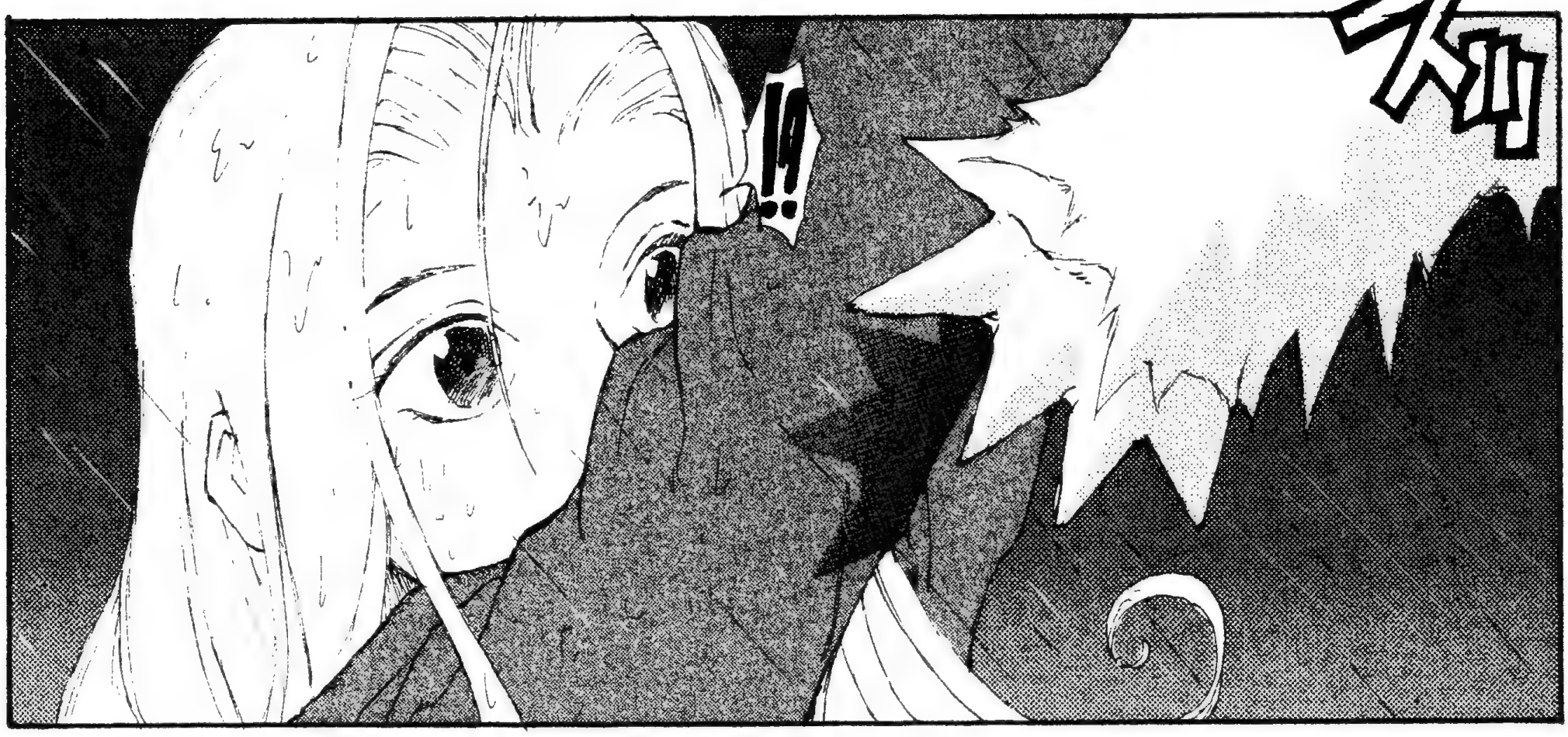
?

J-J-JING, WE'RE FAALLLLIING!

THAT WATER BALL GREW...

EEEK

#=#=#!..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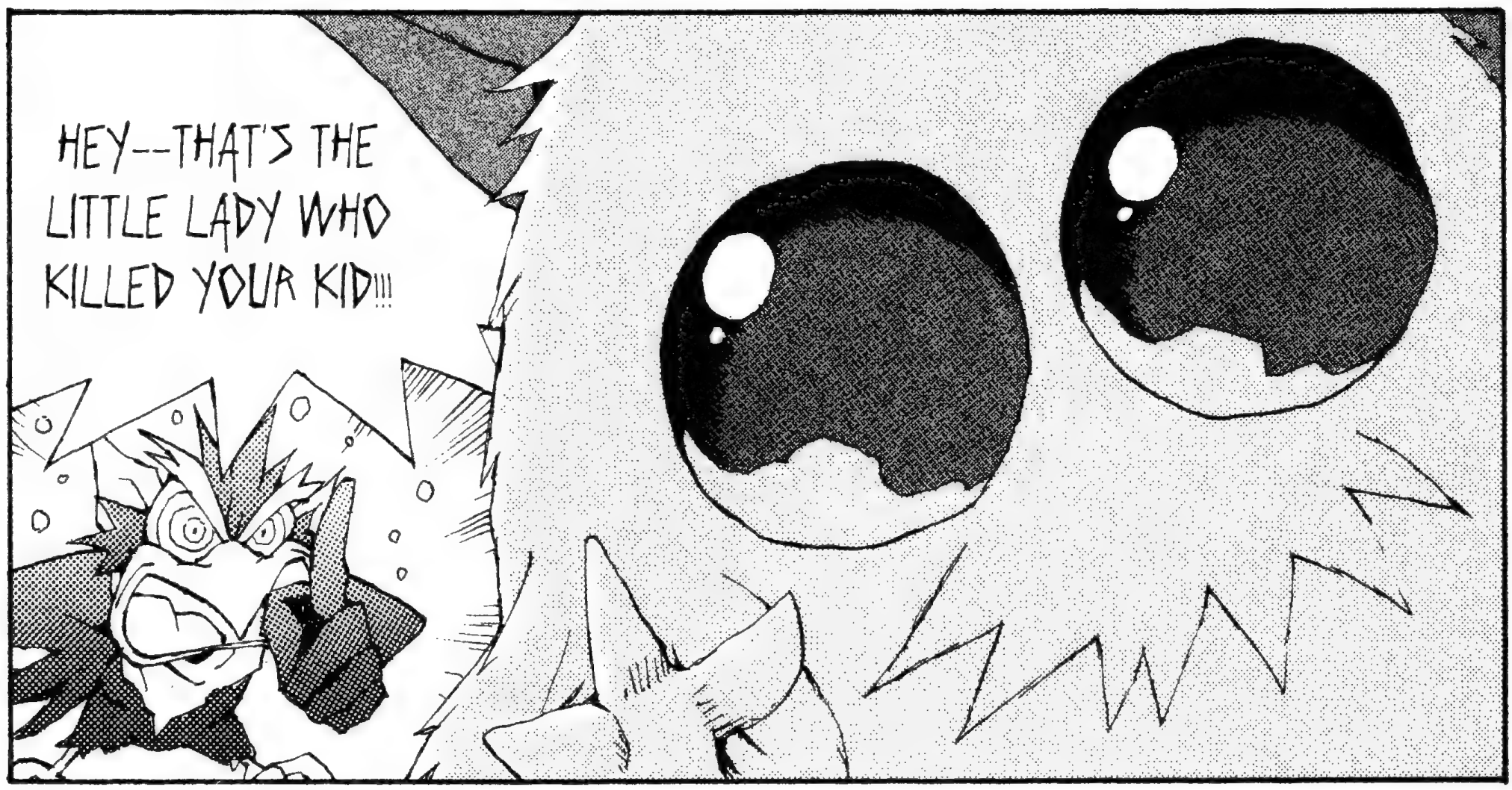
HEY--THAT'S THE LITTLE LADY WHO KILLED YOUR KID!!!

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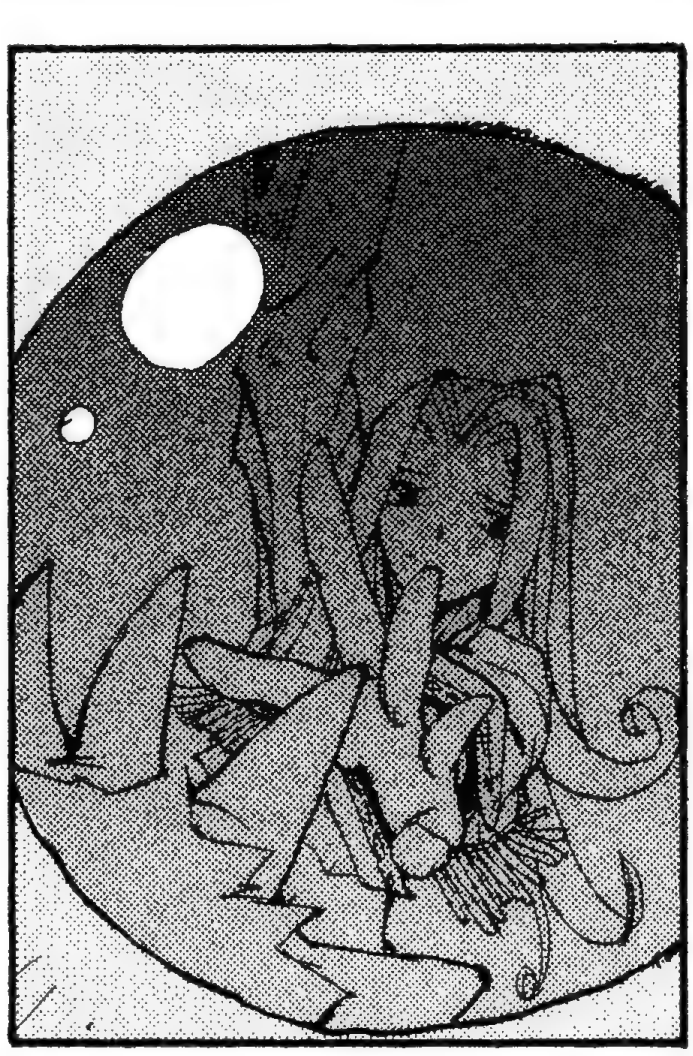


YOU...

...YOU...

LOOK, I HATE TO BREAK UP THIS TOUCHING MOMENT, BUT IF WE DON'T GET UP THIS CLIFF SOON, THAT BALL'S GONNA BE WASHED AWAY IN NEXT SPRING'S RAIN!

WELL... WE'VE COME THIS FAR. MIGHT AS WELL CROSS THE REST OF THE MILKY WAY.

Fake is fake, after all...
It's true. I think about my dead daughter too much.
Once, my eyes and hands remembered her so well
I made a life-sized clay statue of her.
Yep... I tried. But...

In the end, it sank...
into the lava rapids...

Melted away, just like that.
I guess a cluster of gongs is still just noise after all...
Empty noise...is no substitute for what's real in the world.

Still, it's been hard to tell the difference sometimes.
That's why I've been living here like this...

Now? Now I'm content.
In fact, I'm quite happy. Because no matter what,
I'll be meeting that girl again real soon...

(Recollections of an old Europa man, living in a shack
on the outskirts of Jupiter)

9TH SHOT - INCANDESCENT MEMORIES

DANGER

KEEP A WAY

ALL RIGHT... WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR. SEE?

YEAH, BUT...AT THIS RATE, IT'LL TAKE US THREE OR FOUR MORE DAYS.

HALF-FULL OR HALF-EMPTY...

ISN'T THAT JUST ABOUT HALFWAY...?

CLANK" CLANK"

...IT'S STILL JUST HALFWAY!

THE VENUS SOURCE...

A SCORCHING HELL WHERE THE GROUND EDDIES MAGMA AND HOT WINDS EXPOSE MEN'S INTESTINES!! THAT'S THE COUNTRY WE HAVE TO CROSS...

UH--IZARRA? REMEMBER, CLASS-A DANGEROUS CARGO WE'RE CARRYING HERE.

DARN RIGHT WE ARE...AND BY EXPOSING THEM TO THE MAGMA'S EXTREME TEMPERATURES...

...WE'LL HAVE A FRONT-ROW VIEW OF THE WORLD'S MOST SPECTACULAR FAMILY SUICIDE!

PROBABLY WISE. THIS IS NO JOB FOR AMATEURS.

J-J-J-J-J-J-J-J-J-JING!!
CAN WE GO BACK?? JUST THIS ONCE--LET'S GO BACK!! 'KAY?!!!

WE'LL BE JUST FINE.

THESE SHOULD HOLD OFF ANY EXPLOSIONS FOR A WHILE!

CACTUS

T-A-DAH

YOW!

SQUISH

MY OWN CREATION...A SIMPLE COOLING DEVICE, MADE FROM CONVENIENT CACTI!

BLAM!

I DIDN'T COME TO PLAY DRESS UP!!

2

VENUS

A KARATE-KICKMAN'S

EFFECT
RHEUMATISM
CONSTIPATION

GUTUGUTUGUTUG

NEIGH!!!

!!!!

DANGER
KEEP AWAY

GOPO

GUTHU-- GUTHU--

EEEEEK.

EH?!!

WHEEEW.

IT WAS FORMED LONG AGO WHEN SCIENTISTS MELTED DOWN A SPECIAL METAL CALLED SHAPE MEMORY ALLOY.

THIS MAGMA'S ALIVE.

SOMETIMES, MEMORIES THE SCIENTISTS GROUND INTO THE ALLOY ARE REVIVED. SHAPES FROM THE PAST SHOW UP AS BUBBLE SPRAYS...SEE?

I MEAN, IF I WERE LAVA, I WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT--

MAGMA WITH MEMORIES, HUH? CAN'T IT JUST LET BYGONES BE BYGONES?

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S VOLCANICALLY VINDIIIIICTIVE!!!

EUNEUNE

UNEUNEUN

HEY--WHAT KIND OF METAL...?

WHINNY~

SEA ANEMONE

BLAM

KUUZU~

ZUZUUUZU...

DANGER

ガ

ICE BULLETS-- THEY'RE FOR QUELLING THE MAGMA.

SHAVED 'EM OFF A GLACIER IN PLUTO, NOT FAR FROM HERE.

BLU BLAM

STARFISH

ICE BULLET

ズズズ!!..

BRRR

BLAM!!

ナレーション

ワイ!!

BLAM!

OH!!!

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!!

ジャコル

OOOH.

パーチパーチパーチパーチパーチパーチパーチパーチパーチ

WHIIIRRRL

BLAM!!

MOKU..
MOKU..
MOKU..

CLICK

SHUUU..

SHUUUUUUUUUU

WHIRL

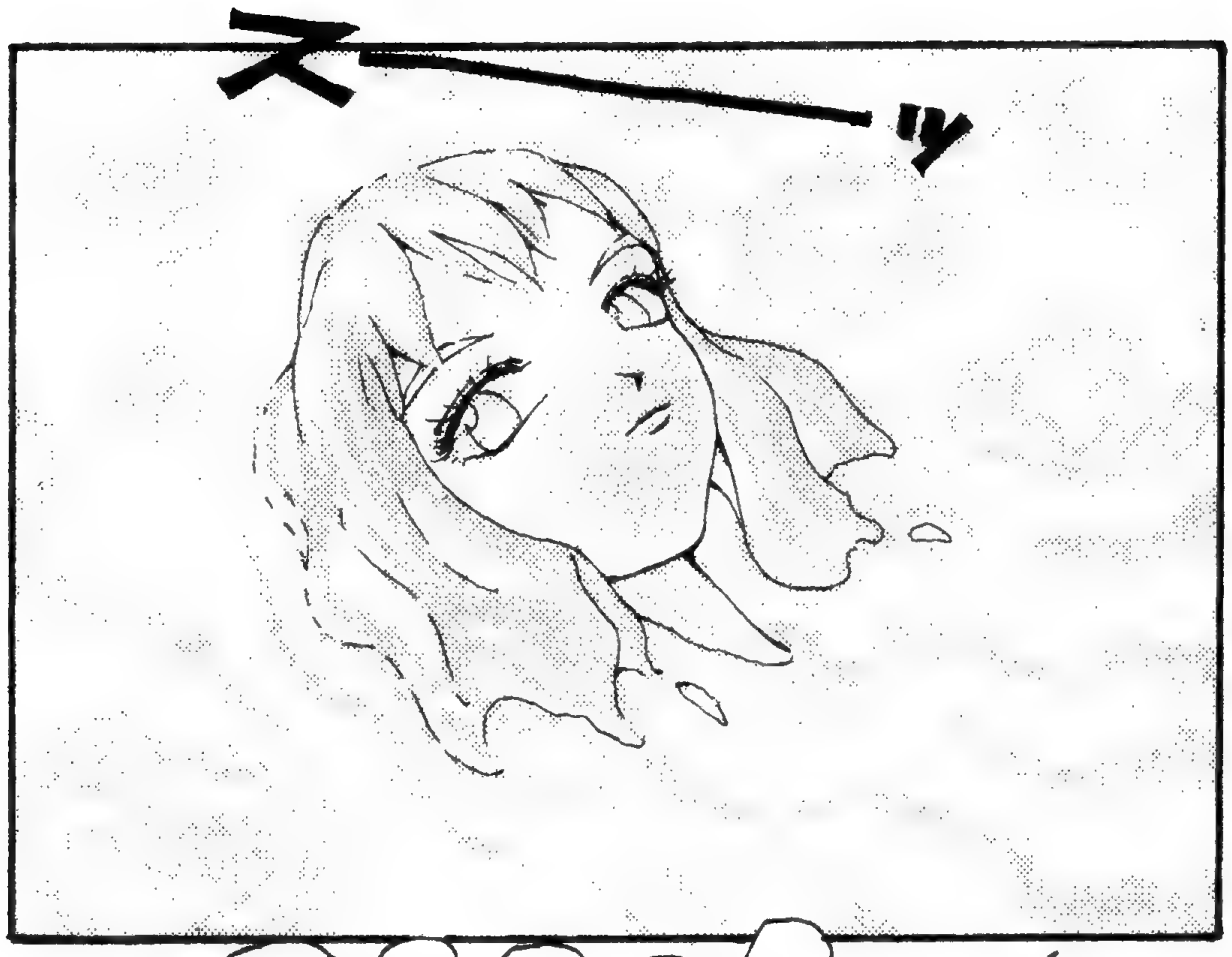
DANCE

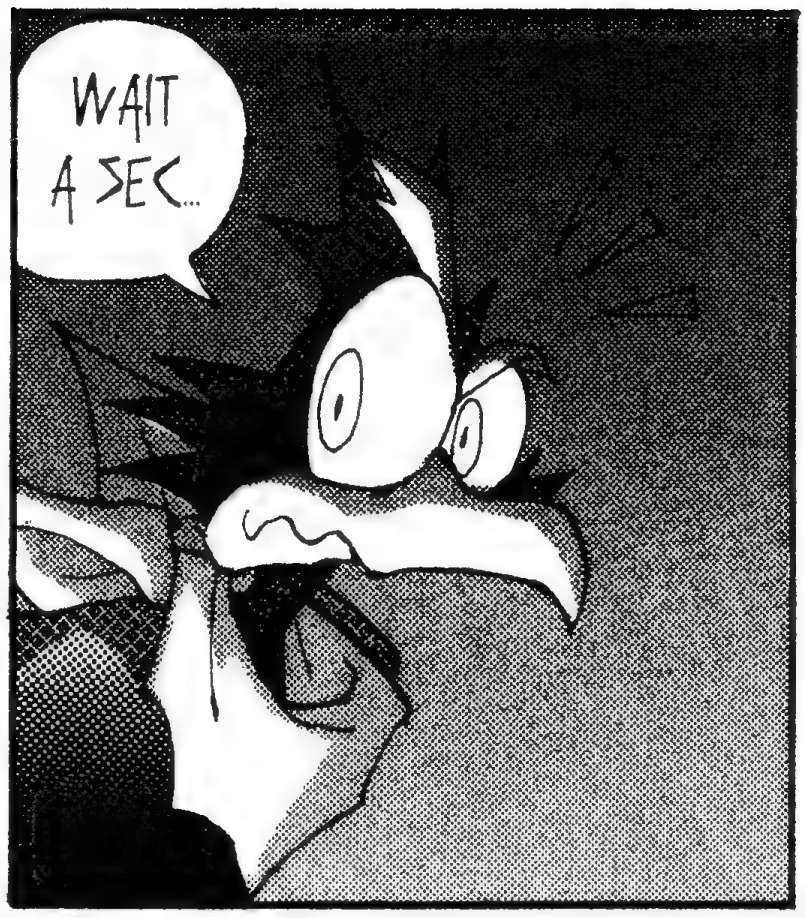
KEEP AWAY

エトセ

パパチチ

YES, YES, VERY GOOD...




WAIT A SEC...

AAAAAAAAAA!!!

Aa...

WHHOOOOAAAAA!!!

N-NOT...
S-SCARED...

!?

BLAM BLAM BLAM

!!!

IZARRA!!!!!!

AH....UH....

OH...

DDRO

WAIT FOR MEEE!

IZAAARA!

!?ナニ!!!

ﾄﾀﾀﾀﾀｯ

ｽﾀｰﾝ

WAIT!!!

FSSS

NO!! THE PORVORAS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

BOOOOOOOOMB!

ドドドドドドドドドッ!!

REMEMBER THIS DAY... YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER'S FINAL MOMENTS.

JING!! HOW'RE WE SUPPOSED TO CROSS A SEA OF MAGMA HOLDING THIS BOMB-CHILD?!!

IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE A WAGON, OR A HORSE!!

A HORSE...

...OF COURSE, OF COURSE!!

HO!

HO! HO! HO!

NO ONE WOULD CALL STILTS A HORSE, OF COURSE! JUST GO TO THE SOURCE AND ASK A HORSE!

DO YOU PLAN ON LOSING YOUR LIFE OVER A DUMB JOKE?!!

COOL AND REFRESHING UP HERE...

AND THE VIEW IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!!

ｻﾞｻﾞｻﾞ

!!!

WHOOO...

...OOPS.

HOOAH!

ZING!

THERE.

IS IT JUST ME, OR IS IT HOT IN HERE? FAN, KIR! FAN!

LOOK

BUU--N!

GRRR!

WAAH!

MY BEST...
GOTTA DO...
MY BEST.

MUSTN'T DIE...
ABSOLUTELY...
MUST NOT...

HEY JING!!
LAND HO!!

?

ふぉふぉふぉ…

YESS--THERE IT IS! JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER!! HO HO HO!

HEH ??!

THEN AGAIN...THAT'S WHERE THE ENEMY EXPECTS US TO GO, ISN'T IT?

七十一

AAAIIIEEE!

N-YOU

WHOA!

DON'T PANIC... DON'T PANIC.

COME GET A PIECE OF THIS, SNAKE-BREATH!

ZDDD

WAH.

KIR!!!

WELL, THIS AIN'T OVER YET.

THAT LITTLE COWAAAARD !!!!!!!

HEEEL LLLL OOO OO?!

OH.

OH.

SUPAN!

OH.

SUPAN

SUPAN

!!

AREN'T YOU THE HOTTIE. FOR YOU...A TOKEN OF MY AFFECTION.

JINGLE

THUK

ハキン

ブシュウウウウ

EEEEEEK!
EEEEEEE!

EEEEEEEK!

ゴゴゴ

WELL! THAT WASN'T SO BAD, WAS IT? C'MON... LET'S GET DRESSED FOR SUNBATHING IN SUNGRIA!!!!

H-HEY... S-SUN-BATHING?!

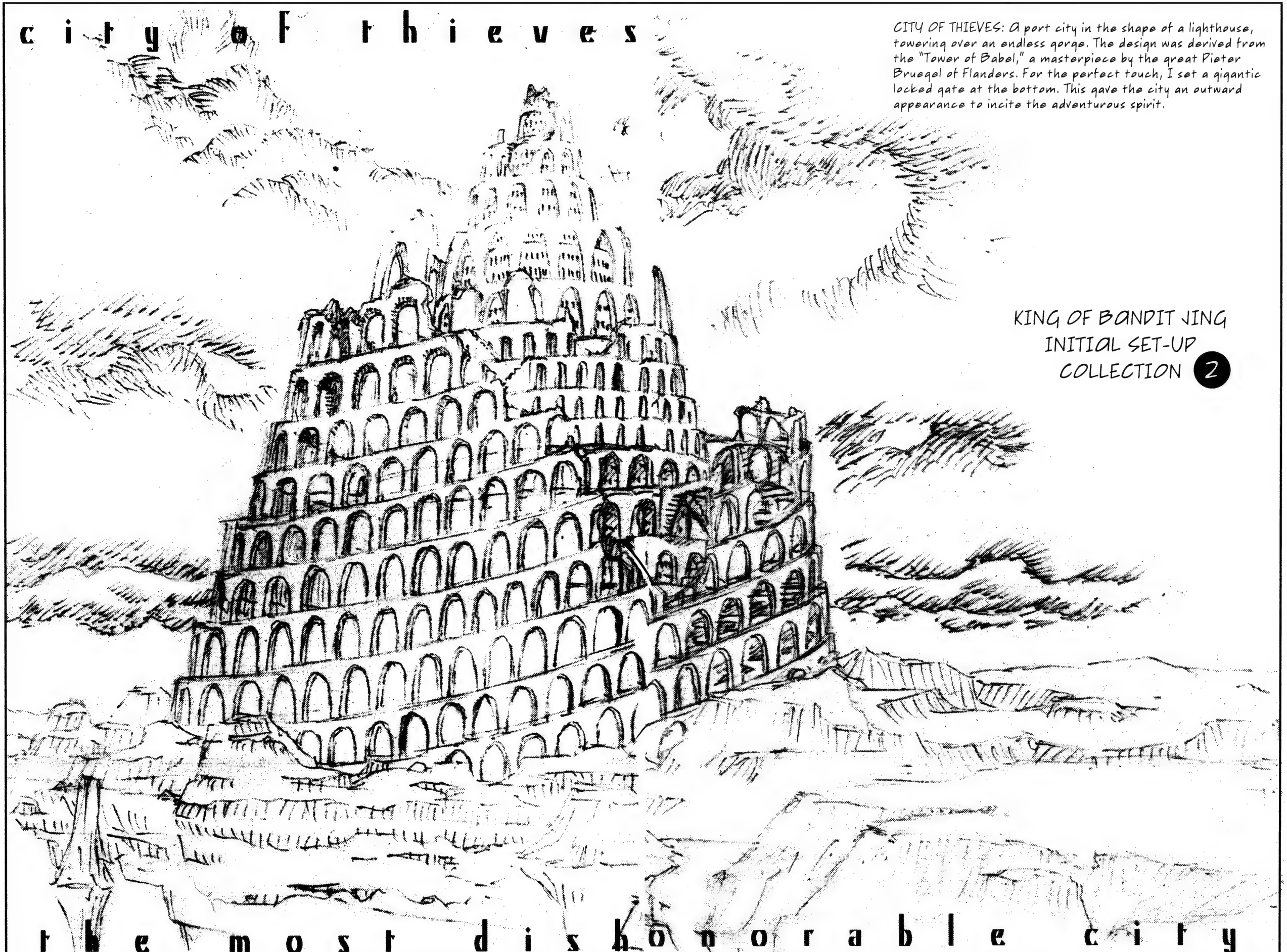
FOR FOOL MONER PRISONER

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3

city of thieves

CITY OF THIEVES: A port city in the shape of a lighthouse, towering over an endless gorge. The design was derived from the "Tower of Babel," a masterpiece by the great Pieter Bruegel of Flanders. For the perfect touch, I set a gigantic locked gate at the bottom. This gave the city an outward appearance to incite the adventurous spirit.

KING OF BANDIT JING
INITIAL SET-UP
COLLECTION 2



the most dishonorable city

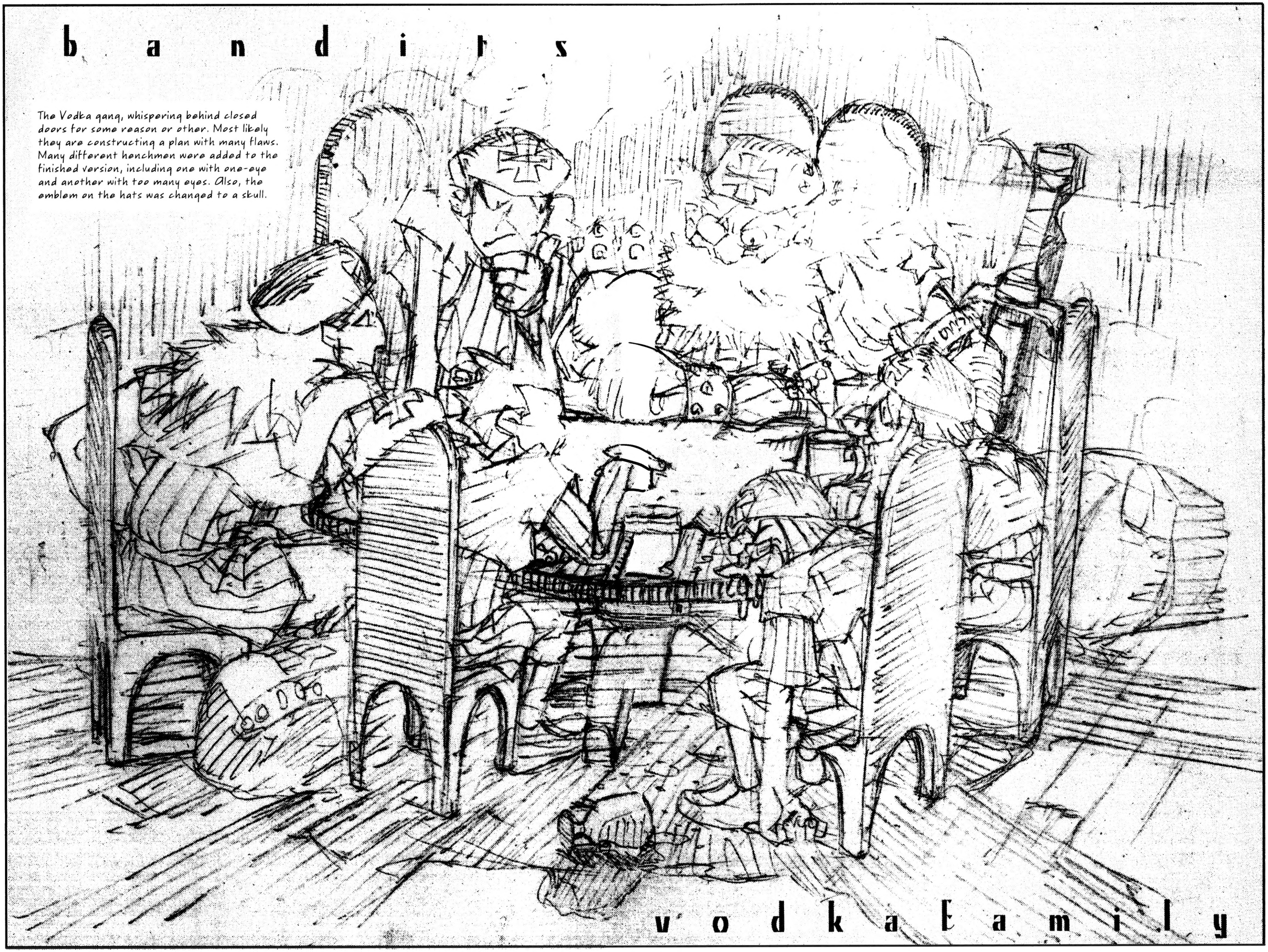
live now pay later

The inside of the City of Thieves tours sites on one simple philosophy... live now, pay later. Voie de vivre dominates the maze-like cesspool— a jumble of different businesses and enterprises

in the tower

b a n d i t s

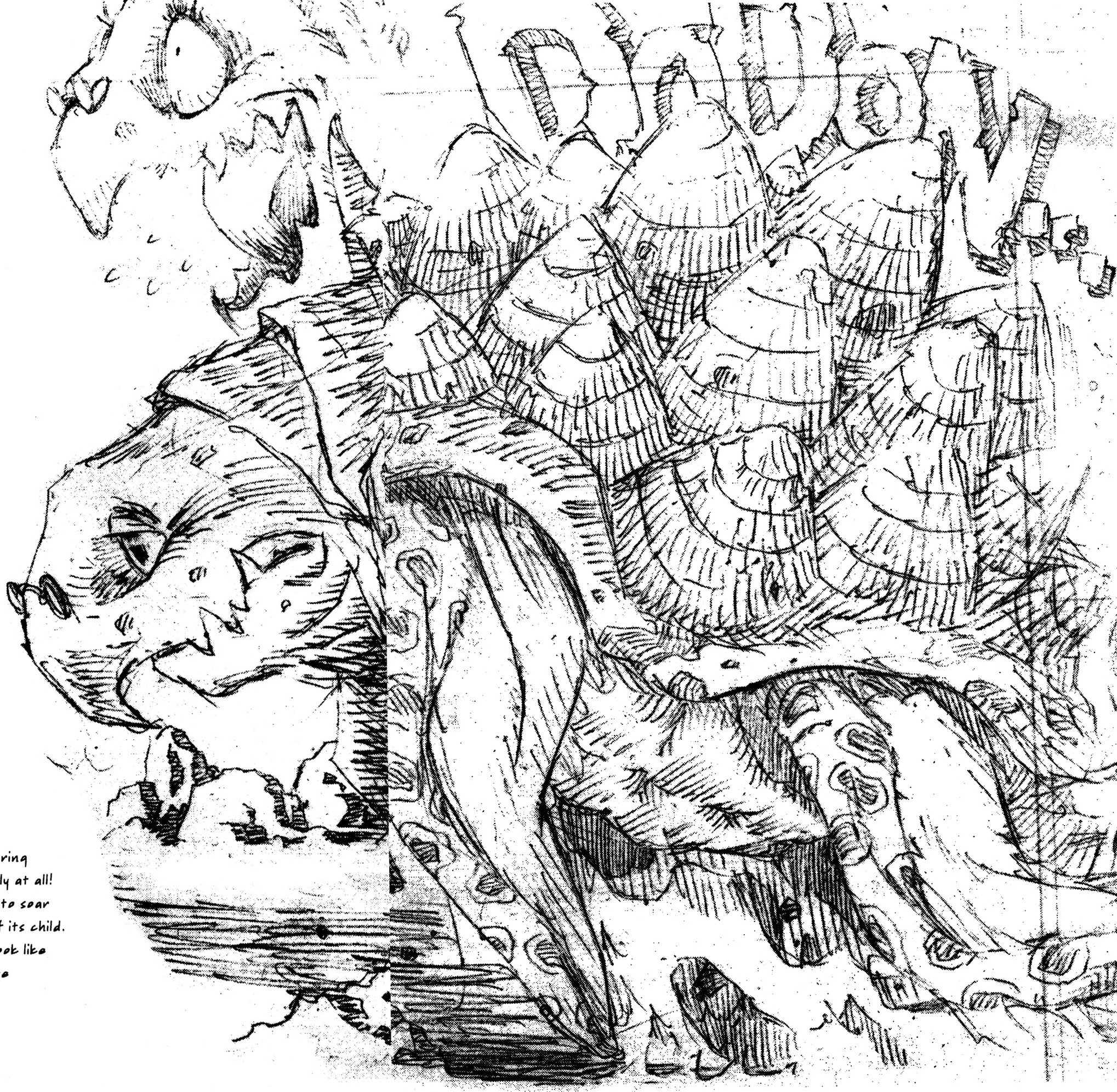
The Vodka gang, whispering behind closed doors for some reason or other. Most likely they are constructing a plan with many flaws. Many different henchmen were added to the finished version, including one with one-eye and another with too many eyes. Also, the emblem on the hats was changed to a skull.



v o d k a f a m i l y

Flying turtle

It was natural to make the dragon, whose egg Jing took hostage, into a doddering turtle that didn't even seem like it could fly at all! Here's why...although it couldn't fly, it had to soar through the air in the end, for the sake of its child. The challenge was making sure it did not look like Gamera, which is why I settled on the more dinosaur-like appearance.



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